PARANTAGE TRADITIONS DRAWER 1 FATHER - THOMAS LINCOLN

71.2009.085.05370

Thomas Lincoln Family

Claims about Abraham Lincoln's Paternity

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009.085.05370

Mem

Ebbitt House. Washington City. Apl 28th 1874.

Col Dick Wintersmith told me tonight that he and Mr Ben Hardin Helm went to see Mr Lincoln after he was nominated and had on this particular occasion a long and familiar conversation. Mr Lincoln told ~~[illegible]~~ Helm that his (Helm's) grandfather, Col Ben Hardin, was the only man of whom he had ever heard that he (Lincoln) would give his house and lot to have known. He said this with a very peculiar expression of countenance so significant that when they left his presence Wintersmith exclaimed "Ben, he's your uncle!" and the latter replied "Yes! Dick he is!" "Did you observe the expression! Is'nt he the image of uncle Ben!" They were convinced.

Col Wintersmith said there was a tradition that Col Ben Hardin had enjoyed Nancy's favors; and that in his journeys to Elizabethtown, (Pa?) (or Bardstown perhaps) he used to take a circuitous route in order to stop at Tom Lincoln's house. Wintersmith knew 'Abe' Enlow well and says that

Mr Lincoln bore no resemblance to him whatever. He mentioned the names of Cessna (a Friend also I <u>think</u>) and other "claimants" of the honor in dispute.

He said that other members of the Hardin family had conceded the relationship in his hearing, and that they had found some old paper or papers which established the fact.

He said also that Mr Lincoln told him that his (Wintersmith's ~~grand~~ father had invited him into his store as the Lincolns were passing on the way to Indiana, and there gave him a pair of shoes, two pairs of yarn socks, stuff for two pairs of jeans pantaloons, and a pair of "gallowses". He offered to have the pants cut, but Nancy said she could do it. Abe was made very proud by this great improvement of fortune, and still prouder by Mr Wintersmith's declaration that "he had the stuff in him to make a man," and he wanted him to do it.

Col. Wintersmith is a brother of Charles Wintersmith Esq. of Elizabethtown

C. F. B.

Chauncey F. Black (later became Lt. Gov. of Pa.)

son of Jeremiah S. Black

The Liberal Christian Church

JOSEPH NEWTON, Pastor
846 Sixth Avenue

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, ~~Feb.15th.09.~~ 1908.

My dear Mr.Wright:---I thank you for your letter, which is one of many that have come to me concerning my various addresses during the Lincoln celebration. The fact to which I referred was the story that Lincoln was of illegitimate birth. I once saw a book---loaned to me by a member of the Supreme Court of Illinois---to the effect that his name should have been Wenslow instead of Lincoln. This was told during his campaigns, and you can imagine what sorrow it gave him to have his mother's name thus kicked about in the muck of politics. It was all a lie. Henry Watterson cleared it up with the facts and the witnesses. If you will get the March number of the Cosmopolitan Magazine you can read the facts---or in the appendix to Tarbell"s Life of Lincoln.

A similar charge hangs against his grandmother, Lucy Hanks, which has not yet been thoroughly cleared up. Henry Clay is in no way mixed up in the affair. I think in time this will be shown to be false. As I said, in the report of the lecture to which you referred, it is too early to write the final life of Lincoln. But it will come in time, and he will stand forth one of the tallest souls of the world.

Again I thank you for your letter, and beg to remain, always,

Yours fraternally,

Joseph Newton

Swansea S Oka - July 20 '07 -

My dear Sir;

I have been very busy attending a protracted m[illegible] in town that I have not taken time to answer yours of July 11 '07 -

I spent a good deal of time during 8 or 9 yrs to look after the history of the Hanks family - I have not published one of my own but Mr. John Arthur of western N. C. several years since plied me with many questions & inquiries which he has placed in his history of W. N. C. in 15 or 20 pages about the Hanks family & their kin & connection in western N. C -

Also Dr. W. E. Barton of Oak Lee a minister of a large congregational ch there has correspon-ded continuously with me about Lincoln & his life & any & everything that bears on him in any way & especially a Nancy Hanks - a fine course on Lincoln & his life - I am a decided Lincoln man & Lincoln today has more real admirers than Jeff Davis - but am not apt to be him a deity - almost -

He has published these letters from me in a life of A. Lincoln & it occupies a good many pages -

(2)

wh at has fooled these men so badly one & all in searching for Lincoln's birth is the affair of two Nancy Hanks' one at Elizabethtown & youngest child of Joseph Hanks who died in Nelson Co 1793 & one down in Washington co - daughter of Lucy Hanks a younger sister of this Joseph who was living here with her two older sisters Mrs. Abraham Lincoln & Mrs. Berry & really I believe another but they don't concern - Lucy gave birth to Nancy & after wards married Henry Sparrow & Mrs. Richard Berry & really raised this girl - Thomas Lincoln was son of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln & 1st cousin of this girl & Thomas was a very trifling man in young life & old - He lived without marriage a short time & died leaving one child Sarah - & after death this man Richard Berry goes up home & begins with Lincoln all fraud - after death trying to show these near kin were really married - but made many errors in getting in court judgeon holes - & many in returns for marriage, one Meth. dist Mi Sign Jesse Head D. M. E. C. pretended to marry & has returned 18 marriages on one return & they just cobble & got on record to one of Nancy - Jesse Head by records had a certificate to preach & they thought any preacher could marry & forced this - Jesse Head

does many several couples & signs of all as

relating Prof. ... ~~Dom~~ - I could not get the clerk down there to copy & examine anything for pay - I employed ~~Mrs.~~ a widow lady at Bardstown to inspect that office & then asked her to go down & turn over the Springfield office for records & she did that & reported the estate of the Berry's & Abram Lincoln & doing good & both estates having several negroes & then showed the office badly Dr. ~~H. Luf~~ & Dr. Jones Alexander of Nashville a ~~[illegible]~~ keeping of Methodist records to whom I was referred by Methodist, which & I have his receipt there was no Jesse Head D. M. E. Ch Ken - from 1800 to 1820 - (my question - It was family dignity - they were trying to hide no relation of Lincoln's birth & in no way affecting anything) the family of Lucy Sherrow and Lucy Hanks - & ~~Dr.~~ Richard Berry signs the bond guardian - He raised her & what little life she lived was in his home - She had one child Sarah & in 1850 Mr. Lincoln wrote - the family record for Mrs. Thomas Lincoln - he placed Sarah daughter of Thomas Lincoln ~~Du~~ married Aaron Grigsby - & then Sarah daughter Thomas Lincoln wife of Aaron Grigsz died ...

4

wh... he came to write his own birth days Son
of T. L. & Nancy Lincoln born --- very plainly
& I think they are dealt with in these
articles.

Mr. Barton you can see is just one idea & that
my way a complete man — Dr. E gave him some
records & & a lawyer had gotten from Anderson
County where Luke Hanks lived & died leaving 12
children & you will see how they had to have two
suits to settle the Hanks estate — very poor poor
& died 1789 – 210 acres of land = $210 & $500 of personal
property giving a mare & colt & a filly as all the horse
stock & 7 head of hogs = $10 – A real interesting inventory
of a poor man's havings in the office of wills –
I will send the two books to you as soon as I can get
them home & Dr. Barton's I think I can get any
day. There are many items left out that would count
the people in N. C. believing Lincoln was Enloe's
child, my articles cut – they knew & give names many
& hearly had been in Enloe's home at night — tiring but declare
that it was his child –

Remember to Boys & return, Yours most Sinicaly D. J. Knotts

H. E. RUCKER, President A. Z. STROMAN, Vice President W. B. COURTNEY, Secty. and Treas.

Swansea Real Estate and Investment Co.

Swansea, South Carolina

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
A. Z. STROMAN H. E. RUCKER
W. B. COURTNEY G. C. RILEY
B. E. CRAFT

July 27th

Dear Sir; I sent you yesterday Barton's life of Lincoln containing what I have written him about Mr Calhoun incident — I did not know he was intending in putting them in his history — He asked if I objected to publication of the incident but I thought it was in a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] & headlines [illegible] sometimes used — You look & see the Bateman incident in his life of Lincoln — 23 [illegible] & preachers [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] women had signed a petition to the convention not to nominate Lincoln on the [illegible] — they wanted to [illegible] the ticket [illegible] could not if Lincoln went on it [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] — [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] right there from [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

been to [illegible] his daily life - [illegible]
[illegible] Beeton [illegible] griefs which have
[illegible] the [illegible] in Springfield
has given him no reason - His first
[illegible] these [illegible] went to
[illegible] - went to his office [illegible]
[illegible] as usual & come back when
when he knew his wife & little ones would
be [illegible] - But Dr Beeton [illegible]
[illegible] he could be [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] going [illegible] he [illegible]
[illegible] life & [illegible] he [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] the place & for [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] him [illegible] are now - [illegible]
[illegible] must have changed
[illegible] Mackie his
[illegible]

H. E. RUCKER, President | A. Z. STROMAN, Vice President | W. B. COURTNEY, Secty. and Treas.

Swansea Real Estate and Investment Co.

Swansea, South Carolina

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
A. Z. STROMAN H. E. RUCKER
W. B. COURTNEY G. C. RILEY
B. E. CRAFT

(3)

[illegible] Jeff Davis was [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] made [illegible]

[illegible]

affair [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] or their resigna-
tion would come in his hands - That
[illegible] high [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] - Two entirely different men in
almost every way - Davis a grand character [illegible]
[illegible] observed [illegible]
[illegible] others [illegible]
simple. He should have more [illegible]
[illegible] than Davis - [illegible]
[illegible] reason [illegible] place & that he
[illegible]
[illegible] broken the
public [illegible]
[illegible] he only love men
for their character - sometimes it is
[illegible] & sometimes entirely
[illegible] Davis was the man [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

D. A. [illegible]

[illegible]

Mrs. Warren
My [illegible]

When your letter came [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] + [illegible] + [illegible] [illegible]
and find yet I quite [illegible] when I [illegible]
in which [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] that the [illegible]
lady well at Bardstown [illegible] [illegible] the
given [illegible] + avers the [illegible] for your
have [illegible] for any [illegible] life [illegible]
her husband was Co. Judge of the Co.
at Bardstown + was Mr. Brown + also
Editor the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] at Bards-
town — I took it [illegible] This is
[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
Wallace Brown at Bardstown [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible]
Neither [illegible] [illegible] Judge Brown
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] Dr. Brown [illegible] [illegible]
of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] — [illegible]

(over)

2

Dr. Barton is a professed medium &
[illegible] there the fe-
Dr. Barton won't recognize
letter that 32 Christian ministers presented
[illegible]
to the Republican Convention in 1860
asking it not to nominate Abraham
Lincoln as he was an infidel & they
could not vote for a man of that [illegible]
[illegible] Alex [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] was aboli-
[illegible] Lincoln was [illegible]
[illegible] Slavery & [illegible]
[illegible] after [illegible]
brother [illegible] Lincoln
[illegible] of Slavery [illegible]
could not agree on that
& his wife [illegible] in his [illegible]
to the [illegible]
[illegible] none [illegible]
[illegible] of [illegible] life that I [illegible]

5th

dies love of [illegible] [illegible] & Mrs. [illegible]
[illegible] says that his domestic life [illegible]
going to [illegible] [illegible] & [illegible] [illegible]
life he [illegible] just [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of the
[illegible] [illegible] I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] it [illegible] - [illegible] [illegible] no [illegible]
[illegible] before [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] on Sunday [illegible] [illegible]
to go [illegible] home with [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] & [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] it that his office [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] say that
Mrs. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] will be [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
at the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
give a help in his [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] ... transportation ... [illegible]
... at the ... and ... [illegible]
... [illegible] ...
[illegible]
... [illegible] ...
... All this stuff
... [illegible] ...
... [illegible] ... questions ... [illegible]
... [illegible] ...
... [illegible] ...
... to carry out ... a reform -
Germany

In our great war the three great black
an ideal - In 6th ch. Rev. God tells the am-
get to go out into the world, bring about
such a condition, that wheat must sell
for $9.00 a bushel & barley 3.00 per bushel, of
course meaning starvation in a very
eminent degree - this was going before
the great armies started on their march -
the great armies and ... the 4 great ar-
mies - ... called out ... France and
Russia, Austria, Hungary,
Germany - In 9th chap. revolution
to slay 1/3 the world - Russia, Hungary
& also those little slav nations

Austria Hungary + France in
[illegible] [illegible] but all the [illegible]
in effect — All nations ignor-
ant France 35 Italy [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] by far the [illegible] of them Aus-
tria 50 Hungary 70 Russia 70 + [illegible]
+ all the little Balkan Kingdoms
Just as illiterate + nothing [illegible]
[illegible] a [illegible] but the [illegible] + [illegible]
tells the angel to release the 4
Angels He [illegible] [illegible] for the
[illegible] + [illegible] [illegible]
But [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible]
this [illegible] — Just [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] the [illegible]
[illegible] — [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] France more than any [illegible]

6

Cain the worst citizen of all in killing his children just because they would not fall down worship - But oh! No one is a comrade of that clan even against Russia & Prus Austria - Hungary now just under immense claims murdering each other to death - Kaiser. Luther refused to renounce what he said. at worms - all the achievements of Frederick the great can't equal the great crime the kaiser of Germany - the others stain unlike his con- tend & thought & guide & fed. to be shot & killed from progress - God had said

wisdom shall increase & [illegible]
knew just how to arrange them [illegible]
[illegible] for [illegible] & increase in wisdom
& civilization - [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] but not by [illegible] at [illegible]
hope my own interpolations may not
disturb you - & that we both like to
know more of a past. the people
would not embrace the [illegible] of
[illegible] fondly but for his own re-
com-
[illegible] you [illegible] [illegible] all
after which with patience - I really
hope you can get those [illegible]
all as I have them to join them -
& read them -
Yours truly D. D. [illegible]
Over

Our farmers are being [illegible]
by the Bolsheviki - I have a given [illegible]
[illegible] the [illegible] who says last year [illegible]
only [illegible] [illegible] on his farm 80 to 85
[illegible] [illegible] 4 [illegible] [illegible]
& the farm people are thinking [illegible]
about it - & now this great [illegible]
[illegible] are under direct control of the
[illegible] of an Intelligent [illegible] who
[illegible]
I [illegible] to change [illegible] [illegible] with the [illegible]
intelligent [illegible] [illegible]

If you get at [illegible] of these [illegible] vols - [illegible]
see why we believe as we do - It destroys
none of our stand - [illegible]

[illegible]

~~, President~~ A. Z. STROMAN, Vice President W. B. COURTNEY, Secty. and Treas.

D. J. Knott
Swansea S.C.

Swansea Real Estate and Investment Co.

Swansea, South Carolina

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
A. Z. STROMAN H. E. RUCKER
W. B. COURTNEY G. C. RILEY
B. E. CRAFT

R...

Eliza...

Ky.

(3)

with his fist or a club & the
poor boy would get up & stand back -
Herndon asked Dennis if Thomas Lin-
con was cruel to any of the other chil-
of his kin some & he said decidedly no
Seemed to be very kind to all tell others
but abe - I see I did not report Mrs.
Carruthers full report about the Springfield
clinic - She said the record shows
that Jesse Head married several
parties as Notary Public & only Tom
Lincolns as a Rev. a Clergy discount-
I wrote this to Mrs Barton & she said
they had given Jesse Head special
permit to preach but that does not
carry the authority to marry - Head was a
well reputed man religiously & often offi-
ciated for them - Richard or Berry finally
believed he was really D. i. ch. S [illegible]

14 —

when she forged these papers to
help this sad situation - Mrs. Caruth-
ers says his returns into the Clerks
office & bonds for license in every
Case was all right when Jesse Head
returned as Notary Public - Mrs. Ca-
ruthers says she seen the quantity was
for over half of the long list which
Jesse Head returned at about two years
none of them possessed any record
in Clerks office & then she seen the
Book of Wills to the same total
of nothing as far down as the Clerks
office was silent & she said she told
old Mr. Booker the old clerk the claim was a fraud
& the Judge but he told her he was
the first one to show up this
perfect line in famous blood

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
A. Z. STROMAN H. E. RUCKER
W. B. COURTNEY G. C. RILEY
B. E. CRAFT

Swansea Real Estate and Investment Co.
Swansea, South Carolina

H. E. RUCKER, President A. Z. STROMAN, Vice President W. B. COURTNEY, Secty. and Treas.

(5)

& every one ought to help me & he said I would be at the a(?) of going over this country & trying to plan-der & below America's greatest man in (?) to her very good naturedly "Go(?)

God my good woman go home and let this dirty job alone, for no good can come out of it."

He said it that the old nervous clerk first after there became & his fairly assisting of three days.

He meant (?) very cheerfully for when she desired to copy any of the things or any copy of the ... Lincoln records- ... The old clerk would not ... talk- ... with me about the ... of the ... for the long list of ... Hanks - on the ... terms & records - He said I could find better business than trying to ... our greatest American even if ... I will

H. E. RUCKER, President A. Z. STROMAN, Vice President W. B. COURTNEY, Secty. and Treas.

Swansea Real Estate and Investment Co.

Swansea, South Carolina

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
A. Z. STROMAN H. E. RUCKER
W. B. COURTNEY G. C. RILEY
B. E. CRAFT

be mighty — poor pay or
Consolation

H. E. RUCKER, President A. Z. STROMAN, Vice President W. B. COURTNEY, Secty. and Treas.

Swansea Real Estate and Investment Co.

Swansea, South Carolina

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
A. Z. STROMAN H. E. RUCKER
W. B. COURTNEY G. C. RILEY
B. E. CRAFT

(6)

he might-poor satisfaction or com-
fort to going into [illegible] an [illegible] [illegible]
greatest in an & [illegible] refused to [illegible]
me at all -

The wife of one Berry [illegible] was Anne -
& I am not now absolutely certain if
[illegible] Berry's [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] Berry's
Girls - [illegible] in some [illegible]
- chattels but the greatest of all the
estates of those associated [illegible] &
Hampton was Richard Berry & Ray [illegible] was
that est. of Thomas Latham [illegible]
[illegible] from John [illegible] by the law of
Primogeniture & [illegible] [illegible] of the
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
It was Richard Berry [illegible]
were trying to help [illegible]

(7)

Jennie
one girl they tried to marry
to Thomas — Jr. we have broken over
the trouble Rosina

Denis Hanks —
He told Mr. Herndon "I am a bastard"
I Nancy Hanks was my mother & so —
Herndon says the knew all & each of these
people & that Denis Hanks I know fern
fellow is illegitimate & he and my father
John Hanks are first cousins & I
know the that one of of ~~William H~~
one of the Eight children one of the
the three girls gave birth to Denis Hanks
Hanks but can't tell which one —
the three youngest were girls —
& Mr. Arthur sent me a small publication
not giving Denis Hanks mother but called him
Denis Friend as tho just friend, to be thereafter
~~known~~
Hanks

a 2 - I mean living with - for that condition has caused a great deal of writing & of enlightening ~~the Berry~~ A Richard Berry is a brother of law of the Hanks folks - & very much interested him as ~~Berry~~ uncle of a Nancy Hanks for whom he gets out a bond to marry Thomas Lincoln & this entire matter is awfully irregular in every detail was ~~foung~~ found by the old clerk - Buster said he from the the man Jesse Head shows up very regularly in working to perform showing & after him & assigns as (Notary Public) being him - Jesse Head was ~~was~~ quite a religious man & would officiate for the Methodist Church & a permit has been discovered to him but that gave no power to marry - Jesse Head brings as D. M. E. Ch - a full fledged one - If they had employed Head or any competent one, Richard Berry would have avoided this trouble & especially that Clerk returned

3 - very clearly with exam - of records -

Dennis Hanks told Mr - Herndon that he was a bastard & ~~a~~ his mother a Nancy Hanks - the reports - Herndon this forming in the [illegible] -

. E. RUCKER, President | A. Z. STROMAN, Vice President | W. B. COURTNEY, Secty. and Treas.

Swansea Real Estate and Investment Co.

Swansea, South Carolina

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

. Z. STROMAN   H. E. RUCKER
7. B. COURTNEY   G. C. RILEY
B. E. CRAFT

(5)

Mrs. Manon ~~A~~ Says she knows that
Dennis is a first-cousin & her father, a son
of William Gr. son of Joseph ~~of Josephs childr~~
& she knows that poor Dennis was a bas
tard & son of one of the three sisters
of her father, aunt - one of Josephs girls mar
ried a man named ~~Joseph~~ Fried Jesse Frie
& Mrs. Arthur sent two out - of Virginia
life & says that Dennis was called
Dennis Friend till almost a grown young
man - & always known as Nancys boy -
or Dennis Friend -
Mrs. Manan wrote me they were en
tirely familiar men & cousins to her in their
western home - as they would go about -
Mr. ~~Herns~~ dons took q vies great lights
on all this as he struggled to settle mat
neither Mrs. Lincoln's help which she never offered
in any way ~~was~~ with any injury about Nancy
& she was decidedly Mute said Mr. Herndon & he
could not interest her to tell any thing of Nancy

H. E. RUCKER, President

A. Z. STROMAN, Vice President

W. B. COURTNEY, Secty. and Treas.

Swansea Real Estate and Investment Co.

Swansea, South Carolina

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A. Z. STROMAN H. E. RUCKER
W. B. COURTNEY G. C. RILEY
B. E. CRAFT

Elizabethtown Christian Church

LOUIS A. WARREN MINISTER

Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Sept. 3,1921

Mr. D. N. Knotts
Swansea, S.C.

Herndon

My dear Mr. Knotts;

I hopetthat my negligence in answering your letter and acknowledging the receipt of your books" will not convey the idea that I do not appreciate the interest you have taken in my inquiry about Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks. For the past month I have been interested in an evangelistic meeting in my church, and all my time and energy has turned in that direction.

I am now free however to continue the very interesting and facinating problem which you have evidently given much time to, the documemtary proof of Abraham Lincoln's Paternity or rather the paternity of his parents.

I was very glad to get the "North Carolina History" and have made several notations from it for further reference, while I thank you for the Barton book, I had already secured access to a copy and it is from this copy that I would be pleased to ask you a few questions if you feel free to answer them. I will leave space under each question so that you may use this paper for reply so that there may be no mistake in placing the right answer to the question asked.

1. "Paternity of Abraham Lincoln" Page 115
   Quotation - "My own research is from Amelia County Va."
   Question - Were you able to secure copies of documents giving the data which you use below ?

2. (Same Page)
   Quotation - "One of the girls married etc (whole para
   Question - Have you documentary evidence for the following
   a. "One girl married Thos Lincoln"

   See (7)

   b. "Two of the girls married Berrys" Which ones ?

   c. "Also a single sister Lucy came to Washington C."
   Was this single sister named Lucy Hanks ?

   Yes—

3. (Same page)
   Quotation - "Nancy gave birth to Dennis Hanks "What Authority

4. (Same page)
   Quotation- "Lucy Hanks of Washington county ····married· Thomas Sparrow"
   Question - Did Mary Ellen Hanks present any evidence ?

Elizabethtown Christian Church

LOUIS A WARREN MINISTER

Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

5. "Paternity of Abraham Lincoln" Page 118
Quptation " We have located the Hanks Family, William and Joseph in Nelson County ?Ky.
Question - Is this the same Joseph who died in Ky (page 110) ? — Yes

6. Quotation "And the wives of the two Berrys"—
Question - What were the two Berry men named ? — Annie was one, Richard + another

7. Quotation "Mrs. Lincoln and Lucy in Washington County"
Kindly give any data that you have which locates a Lucy Hanks?

Have written more fully elsewhere

I note on another page that you had the misfortune to loose your evidence collected in Amelia County ,Va ,but perhaps you can advise me if the clerk there was responsive ,and if you think it would pay me to make a visit there as I intend to go east next month,(2)

I trust I have not bothered you to much with these many questions,but there are a few bits of evidence I would like to clear up.

I am returning your books under separate cover and also enclosing postage for the forwarding of the books which you so kindly sent

Most sincerely yours

Louis A Warren

The clerk in Amelia was surpassed by none for courtesy + efficiency. The clerk in [illegible] Co. N.C. [illegible] He was a Mr. [illegible] It was admitted by Mr [illegible] that Henry Sparrow [illegible] Thomas Lincoln [illegible] Lucy Hanks + come on with the [illegible] over

them and to their new home ~~situation~~ in Indiana -

Lebanon Ky
Mar 1926

Dear Mr Finger

This letter is occasioned by your remarks on Sandburg's Lincoln, and Lincoln the man. I haven't read Sandburg's Lincoln; no doubt it's all right. My remarks shall consist of a transcript of a little first hand stuff. Tl begin with, I was born within a stone's throw of the log cabin where Tom Lincoln and Nancy Hanks entered into wedlock. This cabin stood on the farm of my paternal grandfather. He did not own it at the time of the marriage referred to, but acquired it later. My great-grand father attended the wedding of Tom Lincoln and Nancy Hanks. I'd as well explode my big bomb rught now. Abraham Lincoln was born in Washington County, Kentucky, in this same cabin where his parents were married, and not in Hardin County (now LaRue) where his wplendid memorial now stands. As some explanation of this colossal miscarriage of history, I would say that the Lincolns were "poor whites" and made very low grade tenants. Tom Lincoln was n't worth a damn; a jacking carpenter, a fair hunter, and not half a farm hand. Two or three children were born to the Lincolns while they lived in this county (Washington). Abe was either the second or the third. Nobody cared anything about the family and the yearly arrival of a baby caused no comment. But my grandparents who owned this farm on which the Lincoln cabin stood, have told me how they held this infant on their knees, and that his name was Abe. When the Lincolns moved down to Hardin County (Now LaRue) no heed was paid to their flitting. They were a shiftless, undesirable lot and folks were probably glad that they were gone. A good deal has been written about Abe Lincoln being an illetimate child. His farher and mother were legally ma ried two or three years before he was born. There are records to substantiate the fact/ In those days. in thewilderness of Kentucky, a certain Methody minister hight Jesse Head went there and here joining people in wedlock. Jesse had no regular charge, and I think did carpenter work also by way of getting meat and bread. That does n't matter. It seems that this Rev. Head was required by law to turn into the County Clerk at stated seasons, say every three or four months, a list of the marriages he had performed during that time. And in the Clerk's office of Washington County today there is a list showing now in faded ink (brown but perfectly legible) the names, among a score of others of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks. On this same list, by the way, appear the names of Anthony Litsey and Keziah Pirtle. This Litsey was one of my forbears. Abe was not illegitimate in the sense that his father and mother were not married. but there is grave doubt in many minds, including my own, that Thomas Lincoln was his father. In what follows I cast no undue aspersions on Nancy Hanks, about whom very little is actually known. [From the annals of our house I gather that she was not an especially comely

woman though well bodied and liking the company of men. Tradition hereabout asserts there was a certain lawyer from Bardstown, county seat of Nelson County, which adjoins Washington, who had a habit of breaking his long horseback journey from one county seat to another in pursuing his profession, by stopping at the Lincoln cabin, This man was Ben Hardin, one of the brightest minds in Kenticky at that time. Whether or not he sired Abraham Lincoln no one will ever know, and it does n't matter, But when Abe began to come up out of the muck and night in which he was born with a torch in his horny hand and words of prophecy on his lips. people began to wonder, even as they had when another carpenter's son began to propound a new and strange gospel. Personally, I don't see how the wonder which was Abraham Lincoln possibly could have sprung from the lank, lousy loins of Tom Lincoln. I grant such a thing is possible, but a Kentuckian, more than anyone else, knows that blood tells. As you know, there are scores of Lincoln 'Lives' and hundreds of papers and pamphlets. The best and most authentic is by Wm H Herndon, Lincoln's law partner in Springfield, Illinois, for fifteen years. He, from the most intimate association, knew Lincoln from soul to skin. He says Lincoln was an agnostic, if not an infidel. He was of a bilious, melancholy temperament, uncouth, ungainly, but terribly earnest. He says Lincoln's married life was unhappy. Mary Todd was an aristocrat from Lexington, Ky., and Abraham Lincoln was from a sub-stratum. She led him into a hell of a life; a shrew and scold. Lincoln often slept on an old sofa in his office rather than go home to the tongue of his wife. But you can find all this in Herndon's Life, if you look. It rcently has been published by Appleton's in two volumes. Now you will want to know how it happened that when all this hullabaloo was started by the Collier's a number of years ago, to erect a magnificent memorial to Lincoln, that Washingt n County did not come forward with its claim. They did, but 'claim' was all they could dO. There were no official records of Abe's birth, and the older people who knew the facts from personal experience all had died. Hardin (now LaRue) County managed in some way to establish some sort of shady proof. and as Was ington County had none whatever, the memorial was lost to the County which deserved it. But Abe was born right there in Washington County, and you can lay to that. All of which I trust you will be glad to know.

Sincerely your friend

Edwin Carlile Litsey.

OK-
From ALL'S WELL (Published by Chas. J. Finger, Fayetteville, Ark.) Apr. '26
L. Finger prints this letter.

Lebanon, Ky., Mar. 24, '26

Dear Finger:

...I was born within sight of ... the log cabin where Tom Lincoln and Nancy Hanks entered into wedlock. This cabin stood on the farm of my paternal grandfather. He did not own it at the time of the marriage referred to, but acquired it later. My great-grandmother attended the wedding .... Abraham Lincoln was born in Washington Co., Ky., in this same cabin where his parents were married, and not in Hardin Co. (Now LaRue) where his splendid memorial now stands .... The Lincolns were "Pore whites," and made very low grade tenants. TomL. wasn't worth a damn; a jackley carpenter, a fair hunter, and hot half a farmhand. Two or three children were born to the Lincolns while they lived in this cabin ... Abe was either the second or third ... my grandparents, who owned this farm ..., have told me how they heard much older people than themselves tell how they held this infant on their knees, and that his name was Abe. When the L's moved down to Hardin Co..., no heed was paid.... They were a shiftless, undesirable lot.... A good deal has been written about Abe L. being an illegitimate child. His father and mother were legally married two or three years before he was born. There are records to substantiate this fact. In those days, ... a certain Methody minister hight Jesse Head went here and there joining people in holy wedlock.... Head was required by law to turn in to the Co. clerk ... a list of the marriages.... and in the Clerk's office of Wash. Co. today there is a list showing now in faded, brown, but perfectly legible ink, the names... of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks. On this same list .... appear the names of Anthony Litsey and Keziah Pirtle. This Litsey was one of my forebears. Abe was not illegetimate in the sense that his father and mother were not married, but there is grave doubt ... that Thos. L. was his father.... From the annals of our house I gather that she (Nancy) was not an especially comely women, though well-bodied, and liking the company of men. Tradition hereabouts asserts there was a certain lawyer from Bardstown, ... Nelson Co., ... who had a habit of ... stopping at the L. cabin. This man was Ben Hardin, one of the brightest minds in Ky..... Whether or not he sired Abr. L., no one will ever know.... Now you will want to know how it happened that when all this hullabaloo was started ... to erect a magnificent memorial to L., that Wash. Co. didn't come forward with its claim. They did, but ... There were no official records of Abe's birth, and the older people who knew the facts from personal experience all had died. Hardin ... Co., managed ... to establish some sort of shady proof, and as Wash. Co. had none whatever, the memorial was lost to the Co. which deserved it ....

Sincerely your friend,

Edwin Carlile Litsey.

-OK

Lebanon, Ky.

March, 1926

Dear Mr. Finger

....

From the annals of our house I gather that she was not an especially comely woman though well bodied and liking the company of men. Tradition hereabout asserts there was a certain lawyer from Bardstown, county seat of Nelson County, which adjoins Washington, who had a habit of breaking his long horseback journey from one county seat to another in pursuing his profession, by stopping at the Lincoln cabin. This man was Ben Hardin, one of the brightest minds in Kentucky at that time. Whether or not he sired Abraham Lincoln no one will ever know, and it doesn't matter, but when Abe began to come up out of the muck and night in which he was born with a torch in his horny hand and words of prophecy on his lips, people began to wonder, even as they had when another carpenter's son began to propound a new and strange gospel. Personally I don't see how the wonder which was Abraham Lincoln possibly could have sprung from the lank, lousy loins of Tom Lincoln. I grant such a thing is possible, but a Kentuckian, more than anyone else, knows that blood tells.

....

Sincerely your friend

Edwin Carlile Litsey

October 15, 1937

Mr. Charles J. Finger
317 N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, Penna.

Dear Mr. Finger:

Some years ago you published a letter written by Edwin Carlile Litsey reggrd-ing the location of the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln. It appeared in the April, 1926 issue of "All's Well". Is it possible that we could secure a copy of this article? We shall be very happy to pay whatever charges are involved in acquiring the item.

Yours very truly,

Maurice A. Cook

November 9, 1937

Mr. Charles J. Finger
317 N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, Penna.

Dear Mr. Finger:

Refering to our letter of the 15th of October, will you be able to suppy us with a copy of "All's Well" for April, 1926 containing a letter written by Edwin Carlile Litsey regarding the location of the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln?

Yours very truly,

Maurice A. Cook

34,112

H. Sylvester, *Editor in Chief*

Charles J. Finger, *Managing Editor*

Bellows-Reeve Company

The John Newbery Press

Chicago - Boston - Toronto

H. Bellows, *President*
ies Keddie, *Vice President and Sales Manager*
M. Smith, *Assistant Sales Manager*

C. F. Bellows, *Genl. Mgr., Great Lakes Division*
K. H. Goodwin, *Secretary*
D. L. Williams, *Treasurer*

Editorial Office - Gayeta Lodge, Fayetteville, Ark.

Gayeta Lodge Fayetteville Ark
November 14th 1937

Dear Mr Cook:

Explanations never explain. Sufficient to say that I've been mighty busy, and am still, and it took some hunting to find the copy of the paper. I copy it from

ALL'S WELL Vol 6. No 3 April 1926.

I am glad to do what I can, but ask you to let me have a couple of copies of the book or pamphlet in which you print the piece.

With my best wishes for you and your interest,

Very sincerely

Chas J Finger

Chas J Finger

Maurice A Cook
Lincoln National Memorial
Fort Wayne Indiana

MRS. MORRIS P. FERRIS
551 FULTON AVENUE
HEMPSTEAD, N. Y.

Dear Mr Warren.

In your researches, did you ever find a trace of the statement that Lincoln was the son of Henry Clay? It is said that facts about his paternity [illegible] all Robert Lincoln's life.

Cordially yours,

June 5/27 Mary L. D. Ferris

October 26, 1927

Mr. Louis A. Warren
Zionsville, Indiana

Dear Mr. Warren:

....

Only last week an intimate friend of Albert J. Beveridge told me that he spent an evening with Beveridge a few weeks before his death and that Beveridge told him that he had come to the conclusion that Abraham Lincoln was the illegitimate son of Nancy Hanks by Thomas Marshall and that he was trying to come to a definite and satisfactory conclusion in his own mind whether or not to come boldly out and say so in his Life of Lincoln.

....

Sincerely yours,

A. F. Hall (Signed)
President

16 #516 – [illegible]th St NW

Washington DC
May 22nd 1932

Mr, L. A. Warren,
Fort Wayne Ind

Dr Sir;
The within request by me, may be an unusual one, But none more needed, There are a great many people who still believe in Dr Clarence True, Wilson.

17 That Booth was not Caught I want the Greensboro Daily News of Greensboro NC, to be extended the courtesy to Copy, or, Reproduce

Your article of
May 2nd 1932
College

W. Lee Person
576 - 10th St. N.W.
Wash D.C.

Wash D. C.
May 22nd 1907.

516-13th St. N.W.
House where
Pres. Lincoln Died

Mr Louis A. Warren
c/o Lincoln Life Ins.
Ft Wayne Ind.

Dr Sir
I am sending
you by Parcel Post
Insured, some Relic's
from this Last Attention
which, I hope you
will gain much in
interest, and appreciation
from, Shall not forget
you, will send you some
books also, the little
boys are tickled at your
interest & see to it the

Lincoln Ford
is dead then
Hope they will
arrive
O.K.

Reply
V
W. Lee Person

An Ex Slave
Ex State Senator,
Ex Pres. Post master
now Janitor
Lincoln Museum
+ House where
Mr Lincoln Died
516 10th St. N.W.
Wash. D.C.

May 26, 1932

Mr. W. Lee Person
516 Tenth Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Person:

I want to thank you for the Lincoln items which you kindly forwarded as an expression of appreciation for the Lincoln Lore leaflets which will be mailed to the address you submitted.

We are also, at your advice, sending a copy of Lincoln Lore to the Greensboro, North Carolina, Daily News, offering them the privilege of reproduction if they wish.

Thanking you again for your courtesy, we are

Respectfully yours,

______________________________Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LAW:AAM

May 26, 1932

Greensboro Daily News
Greensboro, North Carolina

Gentlemen:

We have been advised that you might be interested in the enclosed bulletin dealing with the escape of John Wilkes Booth.

Any excerpts you may choose to make from this bulletin will be appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,

_____________________________Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LAW:AAM
Enc. (1)

Liberty Texas Sept 16 32

Mr Louis S Warren
Director Lincoln National Foundation
Fort Wayne Indiana
Dear Sir:

Your letter in a recent Houston Post prompts me to give you the following information about Lincoln's ancestors. If you are further interested I would suggest you write to Mr J H Castleman, PO Box 98 , Houston Texas. It is he who gave me the information.

Mr Castleman was born and reared in Hodgensville Kentucky as was his great grand father, Daniel Hargan, who lived to be 102 and whom Mr Castleman well remembers. This is the community in which Lincoln was born and at that time was called Hardin County instead of La Rue County. Mr Castleman states that he recalls his great grand father having said that it was generally known among the old settlers that Abraham Lincoln's father was Watt Hardin and that his mother was not married at the time of his birth but soon after married Thomas Lincoln and moved away. Watt Harding was a brilliant lawyer and active in politics and was admired and respected by the people who knew him.

Please be assured that I write this with no intent to blacken or disrespect the name of Lincoln; it is only that I am interested in Mr Castelman's recollections being preserved and I trust you will see it in that light.

Yours very truly,

Watson Neyland

Watson Neyland

Liberty Texas

September 20, 1932

Mr. Watson Neyland
Liberty Texas

My dear Neyland:

Thank you very much for calling to my attention the tradition of Mr. Castleman who was born and reared in Hodgensville, Kentucky.

My residence in Hodgensville, Kentucky for more than three years gave me an opportunity to know some of Mr. Castleman's relatives and we are very glad to have reminiscences of Daniel Hargan conserved through him.

We very greatly appreciate your interest in more sending to us this item and wish to thank you heartily for it.

Very sincerely yours,

Director
LAW:LH Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

Holdingford Minn
Jan 6 - 1933

Dr Lewis Warren
Fort Wayne Ind.

Dear Sir,

Last June I wrote you in regard to some information which I have in regard to Mr. Lincoln. I had intended to see you but you were away on your vacation. Later, my health was poor, and I had an operation etc, so did not answer your letter.

If you were raised in the vicinity of his old home, you must have heard the rumors of his parentage. I would appreciate your opinion. I know that there are probably a couple of dozen of individuals who claim that the man that we read of in histories as being his father is not his parent. My mother is from that part of Ky and she told me before she died what she said was the truth of that matter, and left me a very old daguerreotype picture (probably the only one in existence) of the man who

"really is the father of our martyred" president. I am sorry I did not have the opportunity of talking this matter over with you personally. The resemblance between my people and Mr L. is very great. Do you think this old picture would be of value to collectors? I really do not know its age, probably one hundred twenty-five years or in that vicinity. Supposing he is the father, what would be the estimated value of this heirloom? We have had it in our family for many years and of course we really know it to be true.

I will appreciate a reply, Dr Warren, and inclose a self addressed stamped envelope for your convenience. Please hold as very confidential this matter of which I have written you.

Sincerely
Mrs. Jos. Winkler Jr.
Box 623
Holdingsford Maine

Nam Remarks

February 9, 1933

Mrs. Jos. Winkler, Jr.
Box 623
Holdingford, Minnesota

My dear Mrs. Winkler:

Thank you very much for your letter and your willingness to cooperate with us in the acquisition of a picture in your possession.

Modern research, however, has completely disproved any of those early theories that had to do with Lincoln's parentage. They were merely stories which grew up about the time of Lincoln's nomination and which were, as it seems, made out of whole clothe.

Thank you nevertheless for calling this item to our attention.

Very sincerely yours,

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LAW:LH

8 Dr Warren
I thought this might interest you WRB

Holdingford Minn
Mar 1st 1934

Walter R Benjamin
578 Madison Ave N. Y. C.

My dear sir -
Your name has been handed me as a dealer in autographs. And I am wondering if you also deal in old daguerreotypes? I have one of the man who owned the Lincoln farm in Kentucky where Abraham Lincoln was born. It has been in my family for many generations; in fact, children of the sixth generation are now attending grade schools. Would you be interested in purchasing this? Also the owner of the same land where the Lincoln memorial now stands in Ky. Now if you do not care to purchase this, will you be so good as to give me the address of some one you think would care for it? My age is 56, health not good, and I should like to place this before too late. May I hear from you?

(Mrs) Alice M. Winkler
Box 623 Holdingford Minn.

March 8, 1934

Mrs. Alice M. Winkler
Box 623
Holdingford, Minn.

Dear Madam:

Your letter addressed to Mr. Benjamin of New York City has been forwarded to The Lincoln National Life Foundation.

Will you please give us some further information about the daguerreotype, advising us when the photograph was taken and who the individual is who owned the farm on which Abraham Lincoln was born.

You might also suggest the price which you are asking for this daguerreotype.

Very sincerely yours,

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LAW:EB

Holdingford Minn
March 12 - 1934

Dr. Louis A. Warren
Fort Wayne Ind.

Dear Sir,

I was very much pleased to receive your letter of the 8 inst in regard to daguerreotype which I possess. It was very fine of Dr. Benjamin to forward my letter to you.

As my parents have passed away, I cannot tell you when the picture was made. My age is 56 and it has been in our possession ever since I can remember. It must be 125 years old. The name is Samuel Smith. He is quite a fine appearing old gentleman, well dressed for those days; large expanse of white shirt front, rather high collar, wide band of tie around the neck, collar points extending over with tie ends loosely tied, black suit. Hair is grey. He is highly intelligent appearing. Just under the side of the gold frames surrounding the picture, on side I can discern

some marks that I cannot quite decipher. The date of taking may be hidden somewhere. This picture is my dearest possession. I would like to place it with you, Dr Warren, where I would know it would be safe for all time. I keep it hidden away in a "John Wannemaker" jewelry box wrapped in cotton wool. I have placed no special price on it but will appreciate an offer from you. I have been told a number of times that it is quite valuable. I think it is the only one in existence.

I shall be pleased to hear from you.

Yours Very Sincerely

(Mrs) Alice M. Winkler

Box 623
Holdingford Minn

P.S. An afterthought! Last week I read "Black Daniel", a story true to life of Daniel Webster. In there I read of Mrs. Samuel Smith of Kentucky, and am wondering if she is the wife of the man who owned this farm. I think so. A. W.

March 15, 1934

Mrs. Alice Winkler
Box 623
Holdingford, Minn.

Dear Madam;

While we thank you very much for calling to our attention the old portrait of Samuel Smith, we cannot find in our records that he ever owned the Lincoln farm in Larue County, Kentucky, so of course we would not care to acquire the portrait if that fact could not be established. We have here the names of all of the property owners before and after the Lincolns acquired possession and his name is not among them. Thank you, however, for calling this matter to our attention.

Very truly yours,

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LAW:EB

Holdingford Minn
Mar. 21, 1934

Dr Louis A. Warren
Fort Wayne Ind.

Dear Sir,

Your letter received, and to say it was a distinct shock to me is expressing it very mildly as I know for an absolute fact that Samuel Smith once owned the Lincoln farm. But I cannot understand why there is no record of it. It seems to me that if I remember correctly that Larue Co was divided years ago and the other half probably is Hardin Co. Have you any record of that county? You see this tradition has been in my family all those years, we all know it to be a fact and are naturally very proud of it. It has been printed in our papers up North. When collections were taken to build this Memorial to Mr. Lincoln, my father was the first one in our county seat town (St. Cloud, Stearns Co, Minn) to call at the office and offer his contribution, and, I was employed as

teacher in Northern Minn, at the
time and read it in the papers. Mr.
Smith was my fathers grandfather.
About eight years ago, I visited this
memorial & the care-taker there allowed
me to examine contents of cabinet
there & I found my fathers name.
Accompanied by two of my fathers
first cousins, we had a small snap
shot made which I will inclose to
you. On my right (I am in the middle)
is Mrs. Will Irvin of Buffalo Ky, on
my left is Mr. John Upttegrove of Gleanings
Ky. That was the only time I ever saw
them. I wish you would write to them
to see what they know about it. Mr. Upte-
grove said to me "I suppose you know
this used to be your grandfathers farm"
I told him that my father had so informed me.
There should be a record of it somewhere.
I will also inclose a picture of my father.
Just one look at his face will convince
you that he would not lie to me. And
the daguerreotype would never have
been preserved as it has if we weren't
especially proud of it.
I have not heard from these relatives

for a long time. Mr. Uptegrove, if still living, is getting to be quite an old man. And the Druin family had a fine home in Buffalo when I was there but I heard it burned. I think they rebuilt it.

Dr Warren, I regret taking so much of your valuable time, but I wish you would help me clear up this matter. The pictures you may return to me if they are of no use to you. My father saw Mr. Lincoln many times. Some people say he resembles him. He was a fine old gentleman.

I will inclose a stamped envelope for your convenience. Thank You.

Yours Very Sincerely
Alice Winkler.

5

April 4, 1934

Alice Winkler
Box 623
Holdingford, Minnesota

Dear madam:

Dr. Warren is convalescing from an appendicitis operation in a local hospital where he has been for two weeks.

He asked me to advise you that as soon as he is back at his desk he will be pleased to make further inquiries about the Smith ownership of the Lincoln birthplace farm.

Dr. Warren lived at Hodgenville for three years and has done much original research work on the Lincoln family.

Very sincerely,

Ellen Herendeen
Secretary to Dr. Warren

April 20, 1934

Mrs. Alice Winkler
Box 623
Holdingford, Minnesota

My dear Mrs. Winkler:

I regret I cannot find anything further to substantiate the residence of Mr. Smith associating it with the birth place of Abraham Lincoln.

Of course, I do not say that he did not live there but the records do not show that he ever owned the land adjacent to the cabin where Abraham Lincoln was born. Possibly he might have come in possesion of a section of the original farm which was divided into several different tracts.

I cannot fdel, however, that there would be any value attached to his picture as we do not know of his association at all with any members of the Lincoln family.

Thank you, however, for calling this matter to our attention and we take pleasure in enclosing the pictures which you forwarded for observation.

Very truly yours,

LAW:LH
Enc.

Director

Mrs. Fannie C. Marshall of Abbeville, Dies at Age 103.

Was a Cousin of John C. Calhoun - Buried at Long Cane Cemetery
January 2.
Wife of Dr. J. W. W. Marshall, Abbeville Physician.
Born March 17, 1832.

Anderson Independent - June 16, 1933.

Was John C. Calhoun Father of Lincoln?

In an article in the New York Times Dr. Wm. E. Barton, pastor of the First Congregational Churck of Oak Hills, Illinois and the only man who has carefully invetigated the stories to the effect that Abraham Lincoln was born out of wedlock, declares that while Lincoln was a legitimate child, his mother was not. Some years ago Dr. Barton wrote a most interesting volume, "The Paternity of Abraham Lincoln", in which he showed that tradition ascribed to seven men the paternity of Lincoln and which he asserts, after weighing the evidence, that the famous president was the lawful son of Thomas Lincoln.

According to Mrs. Fanny Marshall, these facts are believed by the older generations of both Abbeville and Anderson.

The account of the story follows:

In olden times the only mode of public travelling was in the stage coaches drawn by four or six horses. A line was established from Pendleton through Abbeville and Columbia, called the Piedmont line. These coaches stopped at stations along the way to change horses and furnish meals to the passengers. One station in Craytonville, Anderson County, was kept by Mr. Christopher Orr. They were called taverns. Mrs. Orr employed a girl from the neighborhood, Nancy Hanks, to assist with her house work. She was said to be a handsome Irish beauty.

Mr. John C. Calhoun lived in Abbeille and praciced law, several years prior to 1811, in which year he married. While living here he made frequent trips by this route to Pendleton.

It was a standing joke in the neighborhood that he always had a sick headache when he reached the Orr tavern. The attractive Nancy was soon found to be the cause. In due time her condition was discovered. Mr. Orr discharged her. Her won people would not allow her to stay in their home. Every winter men came from Kentucky with large droves of horses to sell. Craytonville was their headquarters for Anderson County. Mr. Calhoun bought a horse and saddle and paid the men to take Nancy with them on their retun home. They lived near Abraham Hanks, an uncle of Nancy's, where she was to live.

The party arrived safely about Christmas, on the 12th of February 1809 Nancy gave birth to a son and called him Abraham for her uncle. There was an old bacelor, Thomas Lincoln, who offered Nancy a home, which she accepted, a log house nearby. Her uncle was not kind to her. Her child was six months old.

Each winter these same men, called "horse drovers", came to Craytonville. Mr. Calhoun deposited with Mr. Orr $100.00 to send by them to Nancy, this he continued to do until Lincoln moved to Illinois.

Once Mr. Calhoun left Washington on horseback saying he was going to see his friend, Henry Clay, but Mr. Clay did not get the visit. Mr. Calhoun went to see his son, Abraham.

The log cabin so sacredly kept by the U. S. Government is not the house in which Lincoln was born. He was born in Abraham Hank's home, lived there for six months, but lived in the log cabin several years until Tom Lincoln moved to Illinois.

Judge (Orr ?) married my husband's sister who was the son of Christopher Orr, who kept the tavern at Craytonville, and he told me these events in the life of Nancy Hanks, which his father told him. Many a time when a new picture of President Lincoln came out, I have seen Judge Orr and his family trace the strong likeness to Calhoun.

John C. Calhoun was elected to Congress in 1811, succeeding the grandfather of the lady giving the above narrative.

Denials - "A Shelf of Lincoln Books", Dr. Wm. E. Barton

Ben Robertson of Clemson.

Page 67 - Common Fallacies Regarding U. S. History by Orville A. Linguist.

Thos Lincoln - Paternity

Wash, D C
Apr 16th 1934

Dr. Louis E. Warren
Fort Wayne Ind

Dr Sir;
I am possibly making an un-usual request, while at the Lincoln Museum, of Ten times the people of Western North Carolina on the Daniel Boone, Trail, where Mr Thos Lincoln lived the people contend Mrs Lincoln Should be called Martin. I would say to them I would have you set them right, As such, I desire to

#2 ask you to send
your Reply to the
Asheville Citizen,
Greensboro Daily News,
Knoxville Journal
Knoxville Tenn
The Yellow Jacket
Moravian Falls
with permission NC,
to Re-print same
as a matter of true
History

Resply
W. Lee Person

April 20, 1934

Mr. Lee Person
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Person:

We are very glad to comply with your request for items relating to Abraham Lincoln's North Carolina contact. We will try and get some data together and send it to the newspapers which you suggest.

We realize that there is still much controversy over the Lincoln residence in North Carolina and we would like very much to have it traced by the newspapers that server that community.

Very sincerely yours,

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LAW:EB

EXPERT MERCHANDISING | EXPERT ADVERTISING | EXPERT SELLING

C. E. STEWART

ARDMORE, OKLA.

~~Oct~~ 6/34

Mrs E C Aldridge
Newoka

Dear Mrs Aldridge,
Answering your ~~letter~~ of the 4" will say the short sketch sent the Oklahoman was really not intended for publication but more of an answer to the question apparently asked in the Editorial on "Presidents Ex- Sick -" As how such Therein more of a ~~detailed~~ which & they may publish that also. You can be on the look out for it - I am sending you about the same. The writer was born & lived in Anderson ~~County~~ S.C. & thoroughly acquainted ~~with~~ places connected with the story. At Craytonville not far from present City of Anderson a gentleman by name of Christopher Orr - ran a Tavern. He lived
(over)

√

Nancy Hanks a beautiful Irish
Girl to keep in the Tavern. Nancy
& her people lived near by. Travel
those days was by Stage coach.
Columbia some 100 m. East & Abbeville
some 5 m. S E were on the stage
line. Old ~~Pendleton~~ N.W. of Anderson
& near Clemson College S.C. was the
place for holding Court for the
entire Piedmont section which
included all these places.
The Stage line ran from Columbia
to Pendleton via Abbeville. The Stage
Coach always stopped at Craytonville
for meals & to change horses
usually drove 4 to 6 horses.
John C Calhoun was
a brilliant young lawyer & lived
at Abbeville. Attending Court
at Pendleton he always stopped
at the Tavern. It got to be
a standing joke in the neigh-
borhood that Calhoun got to
be late getting to the Court. His
excuse was always a sick head
ache & stopped at Mr Ross's Tavern
to recuperate. In due time
Nancy's condition was known
& then they knew the cause of the

EXPERT MERCHANDISING

EXPERT ADVERTISING

EXPERT SELLING

C. E. STEWART

ARDMORE, OKLA.

union. Mr Orr would no longer keep Nancy and her own people would not let her live in their house. In those days "Horse drovers" brought large numbers of horses from Kentucky to ~~South~~ Carolina to sell. Craytonville was their head quarters for Anderson County. Calhoun bought a horse & saddle for Nancy & paid these horse drovers to take Nancy through on horseback.

Abraham Hankins lived near I believe Hodgenville Ky where Nancy was to live. He was an uncle of Nancy. They arrived safely about Christmas & on February the 12th 1809 Nancy gave ~~birth~~ to a son & called him Abraham for her uncle.

Being no marriage her uncle not so kind to her. Some where near by on "Nolins Creek" lived an old bachelor Tom Lincoln, a Coon hunter & possibley a trapper. He offered Nancy a home on acct of her uncles unkindness & she accepted & moved into Toms cabin

4
when 6 mo's old - Lincoln was born in his uncles house & not the cabin - of Lincolns biographers could not find a father. They found a cabin.

It is said Calhoun used deposit $100.00 each year with Mr Orr to take to the boy & kept it up until Thomas Lincoln moved to Illinois - When Calhoun was Courting Nancy he was engaged or supposed to be - to a girl in Abbeville County an Aristocratic family where the heads of the family arrange things - Calhoun thought more of Nancy than the other. S.C. had no divorce law -

Then a separation you must go into the courts. Their you get married don't have to have license. When Calhoun was in Washington he made the statement he was going to visit his friend Henry Clay - Clay never got the visit but his son Abraham did - He went on horse back from Washington. Calhoun was elected to Congress 1811 - Also married before that - do not hear much of his wife - Nancy

EXPERT MERCHANDISING | EXPERT ADVERTISING | EXPERT SELLING

C. E. STEWART

ARDMORE, OKLA.

had 3 bro's Luke - George & William
The r latter Moved into Georgia & not much
heard of afterward. Luke lived past 70 - had
17 boys - 1 - girl. Now rest in old EBENEZER -
Church yard About 8 M ~~South~~ of Anderson -
A very Charming old
lady by name of Fanny Marshal
who lived past 100 & her mind bright
said Judge Orr son of Christopher Orr ~~and~~
Married her husbands sister - they
Then sure Judge Orrs family when they
would get a New ~~picture~~ of Lincoln
trace the likeness to Calhoun -
Don't look reasonable that
a Statesman & President could come from
a person like Thom Lincoln who was a Poor
hunter on "Nolin Creek" No back ground whatever -
We believe too Calhoun that Calhoun knew that
he would claim it when sending money each
year - & when he would ride horse
back from Washington D. C. to Ky -
We understand Nancy
of [illegible] of the fair sort - A Congregational
preacher in Ill - by the name of
William E Barton wrote a book on
the Paternity of Lincoln & tried
to trace his ~~paternity~~ to 7 men
he proved a failure & finally came
back to Tom Lincoln -

He made ~~matters~~ worse & you
see what he made out of Ravey—
We hope this will mend your ~~letter~~
at least in part. We are ~~waiting~~
especially & from memory of Spartan-
burg through speaker. We hardly
mail stock & always in a hurry
& kindly no space mail any way
receipt the correct way—

Yours truly
C. E. Stewart
Box 847

Columbia

Not much place

Graytonville

Old Pendleton

Anderson

Abbeville

Calhoun was the greatest
Statesman the country [illegible]
[illegible] possibly
Not an equal in [illegible]
Not an orator. He was
a States Rights [illegible]

8

JOHN LONG, President
Mrs. JOHN LONG, Vice Pres.
JASON M. COWAN, DEAN

J. B. Lehman, President Emeritus
Mrs. J. B. Lehman, Vice P. Emeritus

Southern Christian Institute
(MT. BEULAH COLLEGE)
AN ACCREDITED CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR NEGROES

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

HOME DEPARTMENT
GRANT K. LEWIS, SECRETARY

~~EDWARDS, MISS.~~

2323 Clinton Avenue,
Jackson, Mississippi,
January 3, 1935

Rev. Louis A. Warren,
% Lincoln Life Insurance Company,
Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Brother Warren:

I have just read in the World Call this sentence: "Louis A. Warren, active for years in the Christian pastorate, has become one of the nation's leading authorities on the life of Abraham Lincoln. In the field of Lincoln's parentage and childhood he has no equal."

I am writing this to say that as soon as I know I am in direct touch with you I would like to write you suggesting a field for investigation in Lincoln's childhood that will be one of the most thrilling things in his life if fully established. It will have the effect of of the tales of ancient Biblical characters.

I hope to hear from you.

I am yours very truly,

J B Lehman

J. B. Lehman.

January 8, 1935

Mr. J. B. Lehman
2323 Clinton Avenue
Jackson, Mississippi

My dear Mr. Lehman:

Of course I would be interested in any new phase of Lincoln's early life which might be suggested, and inasmuch as I lived for three years at Hodginville, Kentucky where Lincoln was born, I am especially anxious to learn of any incident of his early life which may have escaped me.

You may feel quite sure that I would deeply appreciate any assistance you may give me with reference to the early years of Lincoln.

Very truly yours,

Director
Lincoln National Life Foundation

LAW:EB

JOHN LONG, President
Mrs. JOHN LONG, Vice Pres.
JASON M. COWAN, DEAN

J. B. Lehman, President Emeritus
Mrs. J. B. Lehman, Vice P. Emeritus

Southern Christian Institute

(MT. BEULAH COLLEGE)

AN ACCREDITED CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR NEGROES

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

HOME DEPARTMENT
GRANT K. LEWIS, SECRETARY

xxEDWARDS,xMISSx

2323 Clinton Avenue,
Jackson, Mississippi,
January II, 1935

Mr. Louis A. Warren,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Warren:

Yours of the 8th came in yesterday. In reply, I am giving you the information I suggested in my former letter I would like to give to you.

Brother David Owen is mayor of Utica, Mississippi and the leading elder of the Christian Church. He is seventy-five years old and I believe him incapable of fabricating what I am giving you.

Not long ago I called upon him when he was very sick. He was desirous to reveal something to me which he seemed unable to hold longer. It was this:

He lived with his father in Vicksburg during the entire period of the Civil War. The father and Joe Davis, the father of Jefferson Davis and the father of Congressman J. W. Colier who died two years ago were prominent and intimate members of the Masonic Lodge of Vicksburg. Long after the death of Joe Davis the father of David Owen confided to his son the following story, which he says was confirmed by the father of Congressman Colier.

Joe Davis confided to these two men that Nancy Hanks served in his home in Kentucky when the child Jefferson Davis was expectant in I808. He said that when he discovered that Nancy Hanks was to become a mother through his conduct he paid her a handsome sum, as money went in those days, to induce some man to marry her and take care of the child. He confided to them that Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln were half brothers, Jefferson Davis being born June 3, I808 and Abraham Lincoln February I2, I809.

I have read all that I could get of Abraham Lincoln with great interest. Long ago I was struck with the way practically all biographers handled the subject of Thomas Lincoln. They always stepped over it leaving the impression that they did not know much to say or avoided saying anything that seemed unsatisfactory. There was no resemblance between the father and son in stature, looks, temperament or character. No first child ever misses the mark that far. Abraham Lincoln practically does not mention Thomas Lincoln in any way.

JOHN LONG, President
Mrs. JOHN LONG, Vice Pres.
JASON M. COWAN, DEAN

J. B. Lehman, President Emeritus
Mrs. J. B. Lehman, Vice P. Emeritus

Southern Christian Institute

(MT. BEULAH COLLEGE)

AN ACCREDITED CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR NEGROES

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

HOME DEPARTMENT
GRANT K. LEWIS, SECRETARY

EDWARDS, MISS

In the capitol here is a life size statue of Jefferson Davis. Since this was told to me I have stood before it and all around and I can see that there is far more resemblance than I suspected. Spiritually they were not alike which is accounted for by environment and mothers. But both were born leadres of men. It would be almost a miricle for an offsping of Thomas Lincoln to have the poise of a ruler that Abraham Lincoln had.

I doubt whether David Owen can be induced to state this for publication, and it would be strange if we could find evidence that Nancy Hanks served in the Davis home in Christian County about forty miles from where Abraham lincoln was born.

If this story is true it would place him among the immortals of holy writ, though it would have ruined him if told during his life time.

This is not written for publication, though I would be glad to do what I could to find more evidence.

I am yours very truly,

J B Lehman

J. B. Lehman.

January 14, 1935

Mr. J. B. Lehman
2323 Clinton Avenue
Jackson, Mississippi

My dear Mr. Lehman:

It was very kind of you to reply so promptly to my letter of January 8 and review for me the tradition coming through David Owen.

While living at Hodginville, Kentucky, I heard this story and many others similar to it, in fact it was a story similar to this that started me on my research work relative to Abraham Lincoln's parentage.

If it is possible to secure my book in the library at Jackson, I am sure you will readily see how impossible it was for the alleged incident to have taken place.

The title of my book is "Lincoln's Parentage and Childhood" published by the Century Company of New York in 1926.

I take the liberty of enclosing a few bulletins which deal directly with the subject in question, those having delt more directly with it having been out of print some time.

Please do not feel that I doubt for a moment the integrity of Brother Owen but some one has evidently made a very serious blunder in propagating this story.

You might be interested to know that the father of Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Lincoln, was a very zealous member of the church during his whole life and for the latter part of his life a devote member of the Christian Church at Charleston, Illinois, and he died a loyal member of that congregation.

Mr. J. B. Lehman -2- January 14, 1935

Thanking you again for your very interesting letter and trusting that at some time I may have the pleasure of making your acquaintance, I am

Very truly yours,

LAW:LH Director

13

First Presbyterian Church
Sixth Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa.

CLARENCE EDWARD MACARTNEY
MINISTER

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
Lincoln Lore,
Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Dr. Warren:

A friend of mine, and a trained historian, too, desires the best refutation of the enclosed statements about the relationship of Lincoln and Jeff Davis. I have pointed out to him some of the preposterous statements, such as that Tom Lincoln lived with Nancy Hanks "up the Sangamon River near Gentryville", and I have told him that the established facts as to Lincoln's parents and boyhood are a sufficient refutation. The established records as to Jeff Davis also expose this claim as a tissue of falsehoods. But what about the final statement? "The records were in existence in Christian County in 1861"? Will you be kind enough to return the enclosure?

Sincerely yours,

C. E. Macartney

JEFF DAVIS, HALF BROTHER OF ABE LINCOLN

In the last part of the 18th century there lived in Nashville, Tennessee, an old bachelor by the name of Hanks. He accumulated considerable property and owned slaves. He bought a very decent looking Octoroon girl in New Orleans, brought her to his bachelor quarters in Nashville, and made her his housekeeper and concubine.

She gave him a very likely looking girl for his kindness to her. Hanks gave the name of Nancy to this offspring of his liasons with his octoroon slave, and at his death he gave Nancy and her mother all of his property as you can find out by a transcript of the old records in the Clerk's Office of Davidson County, Tennessee. Now in that day and time all free negroes who owned property had to have a guardian or master and the slaves had the right to choose their guardian. Hanks octoroon concubine chose a man named Marshall, who sold her property in Nashville and moved with her to Christian County, near Farmville, in Kentucky. Here old Hank's concubine and her daughter by old Hanks were in the employ and under the guardianship of Marshall. Marshall had a son, and in the neighborhood were four other young men just budding into manhood, among them Saw Davis, the father of Jeff Davis. Now Nancy Hanks was as fair and comely a half Negro as were those mentioned in Genesis, when the sons of God looked upon them and saw that they were fair and took from among these hybrids of an old Cain, such as whom they chose, thus corrupting God's laws, proclaimed at Creation's dawn, that like shall beget like each after their own kind and for which God sent the flood to destroy. Now Nancy met the advances of the Kentucky bucks half way and lured them to the shore of the sin with the light of her wanton eyes, and met their caresses until the fruit of these liasions could no longer be concealed by her garb. Then it was her octoroon mother became angry and all five of these boys were arrested and tried before three Magistrates in Farmville to see who was the father of the bastard yet unborn. Young Nancy was put upon the stand and she swore (or the records of that time and day lied) that Sam Davis was the father of her yet unborn babe, and the Davis family in the near neighborhood pacified the Hanks octoroon mother of Nancy with about $1500 in shinplasters of that region.

Now a very short while after this episode a gawky, awkward, ignorant mountaineer boy, whose father had been killed while plowing in a field some distance from Farmville, by an Indian, made his debut into Farmville, and caught a glimpse of the young and pregnant looking Nancy Hanks and made overtures that were willingly and gladly accepted by Nancy, and carried her to his bachelor quarters in the Kentucky mountains. Here several boys called upon him and he removed Nancy to Indiana and there married her, and stayed with her until Abe, the sone of Sam Davis, was a year old. Tom Lincoln then returned to his little mountain cabin and the boys again found them living as man and wife and they sent them again beyond the Ohio river, and Tom went with Nancy and Abe up the Sangamon River near Gentryville. Here when Nancy had been a mother for ten years she died, and Tom Lincoln married a white woman, a widow with several children by the name of Johnson. His step mother taught Abe his letters, and the first crude rudiments of his education. These are facts brought about and proved even before Abe became the candidate for President in 1860 on the abolition ticket. The records were in existence in Christian County in 1861.

May 5, 1937

Rev. Clarence Edward Macartney
First Presbyterian Church
Sixth Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Rev. Macartney:

Your letter with reference to the oft repeated Lincoln Davis story can be best be answered by sending your friend a copy of the enclosed pamphlet.

I know nothing about the character of Mr. Davis and possibly your friend may give a correct picture of him, as far as I know, but I do know the father of Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Lincoln, was a respected and honest Virginian who, as far as we can learn from the court records, was an honorable citizen, a strict member of the church from his youth up to the time of his death, and economically able to rear his children.

It may be observed that the first child of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks Lincoln was a daughter, whose name was listed in the family Bible as having been born in 1807 and whose marriage record is on file in Spencer County, Indiana Courthouse.

If your friend would like further refutation of traditions which appear on the attached memorandum which he forwarded to you, it can be found in my "Lincoln's Parentage and Childhood," where a chronological exhibit of Thomas Lincoln's whereabouts from the time of his birth up to the time of his marriage can be discovered.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB
Enc.

Director

The Lincoln Kinsman

Number 31 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA January, 1941

The Paternity Myth

THE SOURCE, GROWTH, AND REFUTATION OF THE FALSE STORIES ABOUT LINCOLN'S ORIGIN

The nomination of Abraham Lincoln as the Republican candidate for the Presidency of the United States in the election of 1860 immediately directed attention to his origin and early history. At that time there is known to have been available to newspapers but one biographical sketch of him. This story of about two thousand words was published in the *Chester County* (Pennsylvania) *Times* on February 11, 1860, and later copied in many newspapers throughout the country. It became the source of practically all of the post-convention news items relating to the life of Lincoln. The story did not contain the names of his parents or any other biographical material of much importance.

This very meager biographical source, the lack of vital statistics, Lincoln's own reluctance to say very much about himself, the fact that his own mother died when he was too young to take an interest in the names of his forebears, the confusion of some of his kinsmen about their relation to him,—all these things contributed to the cultivation of an ideal seed bed for the myth about Lincoln's paternity.

The Source of the Myth

Within a week after the Chicago Convention Samuel Haycraft of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, wrote to Mr. Lincoln making some inquiries about his parentage. On May 28, 1860, ten days after the nominations were made, Mr. Haycraft received the following letter:

"Dear Sir: Your recent letter, without date, is received. Also the copy of your speech on the contemplated Daniel Boone Monument, which I have not yet had time to read. In the main you are right about my history. My father was Thomas Lincoln, and Mrs. Sally Johnston was his second wife. You are mistaken about my mother. Her maiden name was Nancy Hanks. I was not born at Elizabeth-

town, but my mother's first child, a daughter, two years older than myself, and now long since deceased, was. I was born February 12, 1809, near where Hogginsville (Hodgenville) now is, then in Hardin County. I do not think I ever saw you, though I very well know who you are—so well that I recognized your handwriting, on opening your letter, before I saw your signature. My recollection is that Ben Helm was first clerk, that you succeeded him, that Jack Thomas and William Farleigh graduated in the same office, and that your handwritings were all very similar. Am I right?

"My father has been dead near ten years; but my stepmother is still living.

"I am really very glad of your letter, and shall be pleased to receive another at any time.

"Yours very truly,

"A. Lincoln".

Lincoln's reply indicates that Haycraft had submitted for Lincoln's confirmation the history of the family as remembered by the citizens of Elizabethtown. Fifty-two years had elapsed since the brief residence of the Lincolns in the town.

Abraham very frankly wrote to Haycraft, "You are mistaken about my mother. Her maiden name was Nancy Hanks." He then mentioned that Sarah Johnston was the second wife of Thomas. It was also necessary to correct Haycraft's opinion about Abraham's birthplace, and Lincoln advised him he was not born in Elizabethtown but his sister was born there. Apparently there was no attempt on the part of Lincoln to obscure any family history for he invited Haycraft to write again.

The people of Elizabethtown had confused the entire Johnston history with the Lincoln story and not only made Mrs. Johnston the mother of Abraham but identified Mrs. Johnston's son John with him. The story about Abraham, "the little shirt tail boy," and his mother being seen often in Elizabethtown about the court house was in reality the story of Sarah Johnston and her son John. The cabin in which the widow Johnston had lived was photographed in its dilapidated condition in an alley in Elizabethtown and widely advertised as the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln, although it was never occupied by the Lincolns.

When Samuel Haycraft learned that Abraham Lincoln's mother's maiden name was Nancy Hanks, it would be natural for him as the county clerk to search for the Lincoln-Hanks marriage record. Of course he failed to find it, as Lincoln's parents were not married in Hardin County.

The older citizens remembered, however, that there was a young woman by the name of Nancy Hanks who lived in the community where Abraham Lincoln was born. They also recalled that she became the mother of an illegitimate child, a boy. It was this mother and child that undoubtedly gave rise to the story of Abraham Lincoln's questionable paternity.

After it became known generally that the name of Lincoln's mother was Nancy Hanks and that a person by that name in Hardin County was a woman of ill-repute, other communities began to discover that once upon a time a certain Nancy Hanks lived in their midst, and it was not difficult to find some man who was said to have

betrayed her. So the paternity myth became a maize of contradictory stories all evolving about some girl by the name of Nancy Hanks.

Lincoln undoubtedly heard some of these stories during the political contest of 1860, and the fable probably took on many different forms before the campaign was over.

Not only are we able to trace the origin of the myth to a mother and child in Hardin County but also to the individual who first sponsored the myth.

Herndon informed Ward H. Lamon that "Prentice got up some evidence on this question in 1860." (Hertz p. 69.) The Prentice referred to must have been George D. Prentice, editor of the *Louisville Journal.* According to *Appleton's Cyclopedia of American Biography,* his paper won a reputation for "political ability, wit, and satire." He was not a zealous supporter of President Lincoln's administration, and as far as we can learn he was the first person to gather evidence tending to support the illegitimacy of Abraham Lincoln.

As has been indicated, the factor contributing most to the origin of the paternity myth was the presence of two young women in Kentucky with the same maiden name of Nancy Hanks. One of these girls was the daughter of Joseph and Ann Hanks, and she resided in Hardin County near the place where Abraham Lincoln was born. Her illegitimate son Dennis Friend Hanks was born May 15, 1799, and his father was Charles Friend from whom he received his middle name. This Nancy Hanks, the mother of Dennis, later married Levi Hall in Hardin County and had several children by him.

Nancy Hanks, the mother of Dennis, was living with her sister Elizabeth Hanks Sparrow at the time of the birth of Dennis. It is likely that at some time she may also have visited her brother Joseph, a carpenter in Elizabethtown, which could have given rise to the story that Thomas Lincoln first met his wife Nancy in Joseph Hanks' carpenter shop. It is not strange that the stories associated with Nancy Hanks Hall should become associated with Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

Nancy Hanks, the mother of Abraham, was the daughter of James and Lucy Shipley Hanks, according to the best evidence available, and there is a probability that James who died when Nancy was an infant was a brother of the Nancy Hanks Hall who was the mother of Dennis. This would make Nancy Hanks Hall an aunt of Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

The two Nancy Hankses did not live within twenty-five miles of each other during their early years, the mother of Abraham Lincoln living in Washington County and the mother of Dennis Hanks in Hardin County. By the time they were both living in the same county they were married and bringing up families.

In 1873 John G. Nicolay wrote to Charles Friend of Sonora, Kentucky, stating that he had seen a letter written by Friend to Robert Lincoln which stated that Rev. Alexander McDougal had married Lincoln's parents and that a daughter of the preacher, a Mrs. Middleton, was still living. Nicolay asked Friend to help trace the story. A letter written thirteen years later by A. M. Brown to Col. R. T. Durrett of Louisville offers a good sequel to the inquiry.

The Lincoln Kinsman
Published Monthly by
LINCOLNIANA PUBLISHERS
Box 1110—Fort Wayne, Ind.

EDITOR
DR. LOUIS A. WARREN,
Director, Lincoln National Life Foundation
BUSINESS MANAGER
MAURICE A. COOK

Annual Subscription $2.00
Single Copies .25

SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN FORMER ISSUES OF THE LINCOLN KINSMAN

1. The Colonial Lincolns, 2. The Unknown Hanks Ancestry, 3. The Herrings of Virginia, 4. Five Shipley Sisters, 5. The Todd Family, 6. Bush Family Documents, 7. Early 19th Century Lincolns, 8. Kentucky Archives, 9. Abraham Lincoln's Father, 10. Hon. Robert Todd Lincoln, 11. James Wright Sparrow, 12. Uncle Mordecai Lincoln, 13. Thomas (Tad) Lincoln, 14. The Tennessee Lincolns, 15. The Lincolns of Hingham, 16. The Richard Berry Family, 17. Southern Branch of the Hankses, 18. The Lincolns of England, 19. Synopsis Life of Lincoln, 20. Lincoln's Letters to His Wife, 21. Correspondence With Kinsmen, 22. A Hanks Family Tree, 23. New Jersey Lincolns, 24. The Pennsylvania Lincolns, 25. Nottoway River Hanks Colony. 26. Relatives of Lincoln's Wife. 27. The Lincolns' Kentucky Neighbors, 28. The Lincolns of Virginia. 29. Roanoke River Hanks Colony. 30. Lincoln's Mythical Childhood Homes.

This Brown letter, dated May 12, 1886, states that an old lady living in Larue County claimed Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married near the site of Lincoln's birthplace and that "Nancy had one child before the marriage to Thomas Lincoln, a son, the father of whom was named Friend." Mrs. Middleton had confused Levi Hall with Thomas Lincoln, Nancy Hanks Hall with Nancy Hanks Lincoln, and Dennis Friend Hanks with Abraham Lincoln, and the wedding recalled was the wedding of the Hardin County Nancy Hanks to Levi Hall. The story by Mrs. Middleton further confused biographers, and it was then put in circulation that Dennis Hanks and Abraham Lincoln were children of the same mother.

The Growth of the Myth

William Herndon was really the master myth-maker when one considers the growth of the paternity myth. He claimed to know all the particulars of the story as early as 1861 or 1862. He gave the illegitimacy story wide publicity, first through private correspondence, then through Lamon's publication and subsequent writings which used this source. On February 25, 1870, he wrote to Lamon, "I am convinced that the weight of evidence is that Mr. Lincoln was an illegitimate," and then he said that he had held this belief for years. (Hertz p. 63.) The Lamon biography published in 1872 states with reference to Lincoln's mother, "Of Nancy Hanks' marriage there exists no evidence but that of mutual acknowledgment and cohabitation." (p. 10.)

The three-volume Herndon work published in 1889 did more to call attention to the questionable paternity of Lincoln than all other influences combined, and it was largely this book that made current the wide-spread tradition that both Lincoln himself and his own mother were illegitimate children. In the preface of his book Herndon had made reference to the fact that Lincoln came from "a stagnant putrid pool," and then he set out to prove it.

Apparently Herndon's theory about Lincoln's illegitimacy was originally built on an unwarranted inference which he drew from the Haycraft letter already copied verbatim. In 1870 Herndon told Lamon that Haycraft "wrote to Mr. Lincoln about his mother, evidently to find out some facts." (Hertz p. 69.) Ten years later Herndon claims that to one man (Haycraft) who was endeavoring to

establish a relationship through the Hanks family, he simply answered, "You are mistaken in my mother," without explaining the mistake or making further mention of the matter. (Hertz p. 68.) This last statement was absolutely untrue as Abraham Lincoln in the very next sentence in the letter did explain the mistake when he said, "Her maiden name was Nancy Hanks." There is no evidence that Haycraft was seeking any special facts about Lincoln's mother in preference to other family history of the Kentucky Lincolns or trying to establish a relativity through her. Herndon lifted the statement, "You are mistaken in my mother," out of its context and made it the great mystery theme of his paternity myth.

The universal criticism which was brought down on the head of Herndon for his part in circulating these myths was justified, and when the book was reprinted in two volumes three years later, the introduction and the two arguments about the origin of Lincoln and his mother were deleted.

Many reputable Lincoln authors using the Herndon sources continued to feature the paternity myth, and as recent a writer as Albert J. Beveridge to the very last of his life sincerely contended that Abraham Lincoln was an illegitimate child. The editor of the *Lincoln Kinsman* has often talked with Senator Beveridge on this subject, and there are letters in the files of the Lincoln National Life Foundation which present the Senator's viewpoint. The use of the original Herndon manuscripts undoubtedly brought him to the decision he finally reached about Lincoln's paternity. (Hertz pp. 391-394.)

The Beveridge conclusion was based primarily on the supposition that Thomas Lincoln was physically deficient. On July 16, 1924, the editor of the *Kinsman* received a letter from Mr. Beveridge asking particulars about some medical attention given to the Lincoln family. This was one of the series of questions asked: "What was the amount of the doctor's bill paid by Thomas Lincoln to some physician whose account you discovered, the name of the physician, and most especially the date?"

Beveridge was given the answer to each question. The amount of the bill was $1.46, the doctor's name was Daniel B. Potter, and there was no date on the bill which was paid some time previous to 1817 when the deceased Dr. Potter's estate was settled. Dr. Potter lived in the county but three years, 1811 to 1814, so the attention given the Lincoln family must have been between these dates, probably in some way connected with the death of the little boy Thomas. (Warren pp. 269-270.)

Beveridge can hardly be excused, however, for moving this medical service back into the period previous to the birth of Abraham Lincoln and associating it with illness of the father. (Beveridge p. 21.)

Since the publication of the Herndon manuscripts by Emanuel Hertz the public may now read the whispered statements about Abraham Lincoln's origin that only Lincoln students have known heretofore.

The Refutation of the Myth

The refutation of the paternity myth will not consist of a series of denials brought against more than a

dozen contradictory stories about Lincoln's origin now in print, but the review of certain episodes in the history of the Lincoln family will nullify all the various claims of Lincoln's illegitimacy.

Thomas Lincoln had lived from the time he was ten years old (in 1786) until he was twenty-seven (in 1803) a short distance from the home of Richard Berry in Washington County. In the Berry home there lived his wife's sister's daughter, Nancy Hanks. In the three years that followed Thomas had lived near Elizabethtown, but it is not likely he had forgotten the niece of Richard Berry, and it is evident that he paid her a visit very soon after arriving from a boat trip to New Orleans on May 3, 1806. We are sure of this fact, that he had proposed marriage to Nancy Hanks by May 16, and possibly many months before that date.

On the above date Thomas purchased at the Bleakley and Montgomery store in Elizabethtown material for his wedding outfit, which contained thirteen itemized articles, including cloth for a new suit, the entire account amounting to over nine pounds. A week later he purchased another bill of goods which included three yards of coating which alone cost him three pounds four shillings and sixpence.

These purchases were made possible by the following credits given him by Bleakley and Montgomery, namely, 16 pounds, 10 shillings opposite the citation "going to New Orleans," and 13 pounds, 14 shillings, and 7½ pence opposite the item "gold."

On June 2, 1806, Thomas purchased a "tipt bridle" for his horse, and two days later some "sundries" are charged to him. No more entries appear under his name at this store until after his marriage to Nancy Hanks a week later.

It will not be necessary to use any space to tell about the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks in the home of Nancy's guardian, Richard Berry. The official marriage return can be observed in the Washington County, Kentucky, Court House.

Thomas Lincoln and his wife Nancy Hanks Lincoln located in Elizabethtown by June 14, two days after the wedding, and on that day Thomas purchased at the Bleakley and Montgomery store "½ set of knives and forks" for five shillings, and 3 skeins of silk and other purchases for his wife were made during that first week of their married life. On August 4 Thomas was charged with half a dozen spoons.

No one can deny that Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln continued to live in their cabin home in Elizabethtown during the year 1807, and they were taxed for two house lots and improvements. On January 15 Thomas purchased at a sale at the residence of Thomas D. McIntire a dish, some plates, a basin, spoons, etc., for which he paid $8.92.

We are also certain that the Lincolns lived within the town limits as Thomas paid the town tax. The town was established in 1797, thirty acres laid off into town lots, and soon a building ordinance was passed specifying the type of cabins which must be built within the town. Building restrictions would not allow the erection of pole cabins; the logs had to

be hewed and proper chimneys constructed.

The first child of Thomas and Nancy Lincoln was a daughter named Sarah for Mrs. Lincoln's cousin, Sarah Shipley Mitchell, who had been her girlhood playmate. The date of this daughter's birth is not known to have been recorded until the year 1851.

Abraham Lincoln visited his stepmother in Coles County, Illinois, a short time after his father's death on January 17, 1851, and at that time made some entries in an old Bible in possession of the family, using three divisions, marriages, births, and deaths. He did not record the date of his mother's birth or the date of her marriage, but he did note the day of her death. He attempted to write down the vital statistics about his sister Sarah and was somewhat confused about certain dates which he tried to remember. Her birth had occurred forty-four years before, and she had been dead for twenty-three years. Her mother had been dead for thirty-three years and her father was also dead. Abraham did remember the date of his sister Sarah's death and recorded it as January 20, 1828. He did not know the day of her marriage. He cites the date of her birth as February 10, 1807, and in this he may or may not have been correct. It might be noted that Mr. Lincoln made no record of the birth or death of his brother Thomas.

There has never been any serious question raised about the paternity of the first child Sarah. All those who have attempted to describe her, including the members of the family into which she married, claim that she resembled her father Thomas Lincoln. She now becomes a very important factor in the proof of Abraham Lincoln's legitimacy, as most of the stories circulated in 1860 about the parentage of Lincoln have no place for a sister older than Abraham. Most of the gossip in circulation claiming Abraham's illegitimacy makes him the first child of an unmarried woman.

Great stress has been brought to bear on the place where a certain Nancy Hanks may have been living at the time Abraham was born. It might be more important to learn where Mrs. Thomas Lincoln was living when the unborn life of her first son began. There can be no doubt but that she was living in the Elizabethtown cabin with her husband Thomas and her year old baby girl Sarah in the all important month of May, 1808.

On May 8, 1808, Thomas Lincoln was served with a summons in an appeal from a decision made in his favor in a magistrate's court. Lincoln had a contract for getting out lumber for a mill in 1807 and had to sue to collect his bill. The case was appealed by the defendant and on May 9 the county court confirmed the magistrate's decision in favor of Thomas. On May 15 Thomas was again in court and credited with a fee in the same suit, and on May 31 the defendant filed a countersuit. Inasmuch as this litigation occurred in the very town where Thomas Lincoln was living, his residence in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, for the month of May 1808 is positively established.

The Bleakley and Montgomery store book also contains some import-

ant entries for 1808, and in April of that year Thomas was given credit for sundries amounting to 20 pounds 1 shilling and four pence to pay in full his account for goods purchased from the store. On May 13, 1808, nine months lacking one day before Abraham Lincoln was born, a new account opened by Thomas Lincoln was charged with "3 dozen buttons" at a cost of four shillings and six pence.

Many other entries for the year 1808 in the record books of Hardin County confirm the residence of Thomas Lincoln and his wife in Elizabethtown during the year 1808. The tax reports establish the Lincoln residence within the town limits. It was also in this town late in the year 1808 that Thomas Lincoln made a trade with his close friend Isaac Bush for the 340 acre farm now known as the Lincoln Birthplace Farm, for which Thomas paid Isaac two hundred dollars in cash.

With these facts before us, what is the implication which one must draw if he holds to the illegitimacy of Abraham Lincoln? It is simply this, that some man instead of leading an ignorant girl astray, violated the chastity of a home where there was a young wife and mother who had a daughter a year old. It is certain, however, that none of the more widely circulated stories about Lincoln's origin do place the scene of the betrayal of Lincoln's mother in the Thomas Lincoln cabin at Elizabethtown.

One or two other statements might be made in concluding this monograph. There was another child born to Thomas and Nancy Lincoln about two years after Abraham's birth who was named Thomas Lincoln, Jr., for his father. Therefore Abraham was not the first or the last child of his parents but was born two years after the first child and two years before the last child.

On many occasions Abraham Lincoln said, as in the Haycraft letter, "My father was Thomas Lincoln." He wrote several letters to members of the Lincoln family about his kinsmen and he confirmed several relationships on the strength that his father was Thomas Lincoln. He often said he was named for his grandfather Abraham Lincoln who was massacred by the Indians.

To one relative Jesse Lincoln he wrote, "There can be no doubt that you and I are from the same family." He inquired of David Lincoln, "Do you know anything of your family or rather I may now say our family, farther back than your grandfather?" (*Kinsman* No. 21.) These letters and others similar to them were written ten years before his name was placed before the Chicago Convention.

He is said to have told one of his friends that after the expiration of his incumbency at Washington, he was going to try to trace his ancestry. How foolish all these family inquiries and assertions if there were no Lincoln blood in his veins.

Albert J. Beveridge, *Abraham Lincoln,* Vol. I. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston and New York 1928.

Bleakley and Montgomery, *Day Book.* Photostat copies in Lincoln National Life Foundation.

William H. Herndon, *Lincoln, The True Story of a Great Life,* Vol. I. Belford, Clarke & Company, Chicago, New York, and San Francisco 1889.

Emanuel Hertz, *The Hidden Lincoln.* Blue Ribbon Books, New York 1940.

Ward H. Lamon, *The Life of Abraham Lincoln.* James R. Osgood and Company, Boston 1872.

Louis A. Warren, *Lincoln's Parentage and Childhood.* The Century Company, New York 1926.

// LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 655 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA October 27, 1941

A JOHN C. CALHOUN MYTH

The weekly magazine *Time* for October 27, 1941 utilizes a whole column plus an illustration (p. 21), to repeat some untenable folk lore, which dependable historians discarded years ago along with other similar accusations reflecting on the honorable paternity of Abraham Lincoln. This revised version makes Lincoln's sainted mother a barmaid, his devout pioneer father the drunken hired hand of a slave trader, and the President himself an illegitimate child who probably saw the marriage of his mother and his alleged putative father.

The magazine itself apparently shares in the premise and clearly indicates its own position of uncertainty about Lincoln's legitimacy, when it looks forward to some final proof of Lincoln's parentage in the Lincoln manuscripts to be opened at the Library of Congress in 1947.

The new emphasis on the John C. Calhoun parentage of Abraham Lincoln was supplied by Felix E. Alley, a judge of the Superior Court of North Carolina, in his recently published book, *Random Thoughts and the Musings of a Mountaineer*. While the atmosphere of jurisprudence prevades the Lincoln parentage discussion, the same story used by Judge Alley was printed in four installments in the Columbia (S. C.) *State* during the year 1911. A similar story was also released three years later in Arthur's *Western North Carolina* (p. 318).

Few people have challenged the integrity of Lincoln, and his word was good with nearly everybody, even with his most ardent opponents. If there was any question in Lincoln's mind about the authenticity of his birth date, his birthplace, or his paternity, he would have been the last one to make positive false statements about them. Abraham Lincoln said, "My father's name is Thomas Lincoln." Judge Alley says Abraham's father was John C. Calhoun. Abraham Lincoln said, "I was born February 12, 1809." Judge Alley says Abraham was probably born before June 6, 1806. Abraham Lincoln said he was born "in Hardin County, Kentucky." Judge Alley claims Abraham was born in one of the Carolinas.

Three specific statements in Judge Alley's argument may be observed:

1. The Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks "marriage was performed on June 12, 1806."
2. Judge Alley "strongly suspects that the child (Abraham) saw the marriage ceremony."
3. Calhoun's intimacy with Nancy Hanks occurred at her Aunt Ann's tavern at Craytonville, S. C. "Calhoun was just then beginning law practice, stopped there often on way home from court."

Statements 1 and 2 imply that Abraham was born previous to June 12, 1806, therefore the illicit relation at the tavern in Craytonville must have occurred some time previous to October 1805, but John C. Calhoun, according to his biographers, was in Litchfield, Connecticut at that time. Calhoun graduated from Yale in 1804, where he had been a student for two years, and immediately went to Litchfield where he remained in a law school for eighteen months.

When statement number 3 is introduced, the fallacy of Judge Alley's argument becomes more evident, as Calhoun did not start his apprenticeship in a Charleston, S. C. law office until 1806. He was not admitted to the bar until 1807, which date is much too late for him, as a practicing lawyer, to have stopped at the Craytonville tavern and to have become responsible for a child born in 1806.

What Judge Alley really wants to do is to use two birthdays for the President, one in 1806 and another after 1807, but with the acceptance of the marriage papers in 1806, he must also accept the geographical citation on the papers as well as the date. Duly recorded documents show the Lincoln-Hanks ceremony to have been performed in Washington County, Kentucky.

The predicament in which the judge finds himself is to locate John C. Calhoun and a certain Nancy Hanks in the same community at the same time. Previous to 1806 when he locates a girl named Nancy Hanks in North Carolina, John C. Calhoun is in Connecticut and when Nancy Hanks Lincoln is in Kentucky in 1806 and thereafter, John C. Calhoun is in North Carolina. If such evidence were before the Judge in a paternity case in his court, we wonder if he would expect progeny of a man and a woman who were living 500 miles apart and had in all probability never seen each other.

One other witness might be summoned for questioning in this paternity case. The judge claims that Thomas Lincoln received $500 from John C. Calhoun for taking Nancy Hanks away from Craytonville before her child was born.

Duly authorized public records and contemporary account books allow us to locate Thomas Lincoln with remarkable precision during this period when he was supposed to have been carousing around in the Carolinas. It might be observed that after June 12, 1806, the dates locating Thomas Lincoln, would also establish the residence of his wife, Nancy Hanks Lincoln. A brief chronology of dates associated with Thomas Lincoln from 1805 to 1808 inclusive is presented:

1805—Jan. 1, 14, February 9, 13, 27, purchased goods in store at Elizabethtown, Kentucky. March, appointed patroller in Hardin County, Kentucky. April 2, May 15, 25, June 12, July 27, August 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, September 9, 18, 26, October 2, December 2, bought merchandise on these dates in Elizabethtown.

1806—Feb. 18, received twenty-one pounds for merchandise delivered to Elizabethtown merchant; Feb. 27, bought load of hay for his horse; March, left Elizabethtown to take flat boat of goods to New Orleans; May 3, makes purchases in Elizabethtown; May 16, Bleakley and Montgomery pay him sixteen pounds for trip to New Orleans, Thomas also buys cloth for wedding suit and other items; May 20, 22, 24, June 2, 4, buys more goods at store. JUNE 12 MARRIED NANCY HANKS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY. June 14, had removed with bride to Hardin County, made purchases of skeins of silk, knives and forks, etc., in Elizabethtown store; June 18, 21, August 4, 6, 14, September 13, October 21, November 13, other purchases made at store.

1807—January 3, 15, 21, March 9, 25, April 23, 25, 27, July 2, August 4, September 19, October 3, 25, and November 2 are dates on which Thomas was carrying on some transaction in Elizabethtown. It was also in Elizabethtown in 1807 that the first child of Thomas and Nancy Lincoln was born, a daughter named Sarah.

1808—February 22, April 23, 25, May 6, 9, 13, 16, 31, June 3, 17, October 8, and November 5 are dates on which there is some notation proving Thomas Lincoln's presence in Elizabethtown and on December 12 of this year he paid Isaac Bush $200 cash for the farm where Abraham Lincoln was born three months later.

It will be observed that during the month of May 1808 there are five dates submitted on which Thomas Lincoln was in Elizabethtown, where he was living in a cabin on which he had been paying taxes for two years in succession. On one of the dates in May, among his purchases was three dozen buttons, which should imply the presence of a woman in his cabin home. It was in this same month of May 1808 that the unborn life of Abraham Lincoln began.

If the admirers of John C. Calhoun or any one of his many rivals for the paternity of Abraham Lincoln can prove that during the month of May 1808 the paternal aspirant in question was in Elizabethtown, Kentucky and visited Thomas Lincoln's cabin home, where there was a mother with a baby girl fifteen months old in her arms, and there became intimate with Mrs. Thomas Lincoln, then there would be some basis for the sordid stories circulated in the political campaign of 1861.

REAMS, BRETHERTON AND NEIPP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
SUITE 206 BELL BUILDING
TOLEDO, OHIO
MAIN 4228

FRAZIER REAMS
THOMAS S. BRETHERTON
MORTON NEIPP

Nov. 10, 1941

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor,
Lincoln Lore,
Lincoln Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

My dear Doctor Warren:

Lincoln Lore No. 655 dated October 27th has been received. I hasten to express my appreciation for the promptness with which you have answered the story in Time Magazine of October 27th. I read this and was considerably disturbed by it, because I had some knowledge of the facts which you stated so clearly in this issue. It is regrettable that people who feel called upon to write historical works should be so careless in their investigations. It is inexcusable, however, for Time to give such wide publicity to thesefabulous creations of careless writers.

Undoubtedly no proper amend can be made, but I assume that Time will at least publish your letter citing the facts as you do in No. 655.

With continued appreciation for the great work you are doing, I am

Very truly yours,

Frazier Reams

FRAZIER REAMS

FR-js

Dr. E. C. McCants, Supt.

Anderson City Schools

BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

1106 South McDuffie Street
November 28, 1941

Mr. Louis A. Warren, Director
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mr. Warren:

I thank you for the copies of Lincoln Lore and Lincoln Kinsman. Of course I do not take any stock in the stories I hear around here, but I am amazed at the credulity which a good many educated people place in them. I am sure you will be interested in reading a story which I tore from the Wednesday morning, November 26, issue of the Anderson Independent, which is enclosed.

Again thanking you for the copies, and with best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

William Johnson

William A. Johnson

Anderson S.C. Independent Nov 26 1941

Lincoln Son Of Anderson County Woman, Judge Wyche Tells Court

By FRANKLIN ACKER

The oft-repeated claim that Nancy Hanks, mother of President Abraham Lincoln, was actually a native of the Craytonville Section of Anderson County, gained "federal recognition" for the first time yesterday morning when Judge C. C. Wyche asserted in United States District Court here that this was true.

The statement was made by the jurist in addressing Robert Lee "Fat" Hanks, who had entered a plea of guilty to conspiracy to violate the internal revenue law. To quote Judge Wche's exact words:

"Your kinsman from this county, Nancy Hanks, gave birth to one of the greatest president's the United States has ever had—Abraham Lincoln."

Only a few weeks ago, Judge Felix E. Alley, of North Carolina, handed down an opinion that Lincoln was the son of Nancy Hanks, of Anderson County, and John C. Calhoun, of Abbeville County. He has written a book containing considerable convincing evidence to this effect. The evidence gathered by Judge Alley ties in exactly with the "Lincoln Legend" in this section.

An Independent writer only recently dug into the Hanks-Lincoln-Calhoun affairs and produced quite a bit of fact-backed information. Among other things, he revealed that the true identity of Lincoln was known to residents of this section back in the 1840's, long before Lincoln hatred was fanned into a flame. Judge James L Orr, of Anderson, while serving in Congress fifteen years before outbreak of the war, once commented to Lincoln, then congressman from Illinois, that he resembled members of a Hanks family back in Anderson County. Lincoln replied he probably was kin to them, as his mother was a Hanks.

Orr, of course, didn't ring in John C. Calhoun, but knew all about the scandal because his father, Christopher Orr, operated the tavern at Craytonville where Nancy Hanks had been empolyed.

Time Magazine recently gave the Hanks-Lincoln-Calhoun affair a hefty plug, and newspapers are taking up the hue and cry. The reason is the Lincoln papers. Since the famed president's assassination, they have been stored in a chest in accordance with stipulations in his will. In 1947, these papers will be available to historians for the first time. Then the true Lincoln will be known. Consequently, many of his would-be biographers are rather shaky at the knees. They fear the "Lincoln myth" may turn out to be bed rock.

PLACE WHERE OLD CRAYTONVILLE TAVERN STOOD IS ESTABLISHED

Closely Linked With So-Called Lincoln 'Myth'

Nothing now remains to mark the site of the old tavern at Craytonville, steeped in history and tradition, but the place where it stood has been definitely established.

Present day old timers, who as youngsters talked with old timers of a generation ago, agree that the tavern was at the intersection of the Anderson Road and the Old Trail Road on land now owned by W. W. Clinkscales. Until some fifty years ago, the location of the tavern well was easily identifiable A fig tree now grows there. It was planted by Mr. Clinkscales.

The old tavern burned, or was torn away, before the War Between the States. Mr. Clinkscales has a good idea where the yard was, however, as that ground has always been packed and hard to plow. Probably the only thing now remaining in Craytonville from the era when the village was a thriving center of trade is the old public well on the side of the road. It is rock-walled from the very bottom, and the water is just as good today as it was 100 years ago.

"When I was a boy there was only one dwelling house right in Craytonville," Mr. Clinkscales explained. "It was a long, one story affair, the original part of which was of logs. Dick McCoy lived there. Big oak trees surrounded the place. West of the Anderson Road was an old fashioned barn, and between the Bethany Road and the Anderson Road was a screw pit where once a cotton gin had operated."

Craytonville was established when what is now Anderson County was still part of the old Pendleton District. Many of the settlers were soldiers who had served in the Revolutionary War. Dr. Max Green has an old store ledger originally belonging to his great, great grandfather, W. O. Alexander. It indicates that Mr. Alexander operated quite an extensive mercantile business at Craytonville, having purchased the interests of Michael McGee in the early 1830's. The site of this store is unknown.

The tradition that Nancy Hanks, who worked at the tavern, was the mother of Abraham Lincoln, is closely linked with Craytonville. Little more than a year ago, Judge Alley, of North Carolina, wrote a book showing how Nancy Hanks was taken from Craytonville by Tom Lincoln, a horse drover, to the farm of Abe Enloe, of Buncombe County, North Carolina. John C. Calhoun, reputedly paid Tom Lincoln $500 to take care of Nancy. Lincoln was most likely born on the Enloe farm. He was named Abe for Abe Enloe.

"I have been told that Mrs. Carl Brown, wife of Dr. Carl Brown, saw Nancy being taken away by the horse drovers," Mr. Clinkscales told a representative of The Independent. "Mrs. Jim Drake, mother of Mr. Jesse Drake, also knew something about it. People of the Craytonville community are convinced that the so-called Lincoln myth is no myth at all it's true."

This opinion is shared by a number of scholars and research workers. Lincoln never denied being an illegitimate. Conversely, he admitted it to Herndon, his law partner. The true facts about Lincoln's paternity may forever remain obscure, unless examination of his personal papers are enlightening. Since Lincoln's death, these papers have never been seen by anyone except Robert Todd Lincoln, his son. They are now locked in a trunk. The trunk will be opened in about five years.

Cloverdale, Virginia
April 20,1950

APR 24 1950

The Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Gentlemen:-

With this I inclose a note on Margaret L. Coit's recent book on John C. Calhoun which may be of interest to you.

May I ask if you have ever caused the enties in Kentucky respecting Lincoln's life to be subjected to expert analysis, especially the alleged birth date referred to by Salley and the notation by the Rev. Jesse Hite respecting the marriage date. It could easily be ascertained if those entries were belated.

Deeming Washington and Lincoln our two greatest Presidents it seems to me, a Virginia historian, that such tests should be made in view of what I have shown in the inclosure.

Thanking you in advance for a reply,

Yours truly,

J. C. Wise

(Jennings C. Wise)

3

BOOK REVIEW

John C. Calhoun, American Portrait, by Margaret L.Coit, Houghton Mifflin(1950)

Well written, and a most readable story, this book is about the first serious attempt to present the life of the great South Carolina statesman. It is unfortunate that it should be historically inaccurate in so an important particular as the much mooted character Nancy Hanks. But such is the case.

Miss Coit was either unfamiliar with the ramifications of the numerous Hanks family, or inexcusably careless when she made the enamorata of young Calhoun, Nancy Hanks, the daughter of Anne Hanks, the tavern keeper at Craytonville, South Carolina. Her mention that Nancy Hanks, the enamorata of Calhoun, bore the same name as the mother of President Lincoln, a Kentucky woman, put her in the category of those who for years have attempted to dispose of old rumors in this way.

The truth is the two daughters of William Lee II of Richmond County, and the granddaughters of Col. William Tayloe of Mount Airy and Elizabeth Kingsmill, married two first cousins, Joseph and James Hanks who both removed to Amelia County Virginia. One of their kinsmen settled in Andersonville, South Carolina. The widow of the latter removed to Craytonville and had numerous children, one a daughter Anne named after herself, who married a man named South in Alabama. But Mrs. South was not Calhoun's enamorata.

Joseph Hanks who had married Anne Lee had a daughter Lucy who appears to have had an illegitimate daughter by a soldier named Marshall, and who named the child Nancy - an old Lee name. With their daughter, granddaughter, and older daughter Nancy, and several sons, Joseph Hanks and his wife visited Andersonville, on the way to Kentucky. Their daughter Luccy got a job with her aunt at the tavern, later removed to Kentucky, joined her parents there, and left her child Nancy with old Anne Hanks. This was the Nancy Hanks who had an affair with Calhoun.

Records at Andersonville, South Carolina show that Joseph Hanks died out in Kentucky in 1795 and that Lucy Hanks was legally notified that as one of the heirs of her father she must file her claim or lose it. That accounts for her removal. After she got out to Hodgenville she married a good man.

After her affair with Calhoun young Nancy Hanks joined her family in Kentucky where eventually she was married to Thomas Lincoln. There is much indicating that she had been the actual common law wife of Calhoun, Abraham Lincoln, according to his law partner, told the latter that he was base born, implying that he was the son of a common law marriage. He was never able to reconcile the date of his older sister's birth with the accepted date of Tom Lincoln'S marriage. The existing record of Abraham's Lincoln's bibth is one, according to A.S.Salley, late Historian of South Carolina, that was interpolated between two other names. If Salley was right, experts could easily determine if hhe entry is sputious. If it is that would indicate that NancyHanks children were by Calhoun and not by Tom Lincoln. Ceratain it is there was no dishonor attaching to common law marriaged when Calhoun was living with Nancy Hanks, and it would be far better to establish that Lincoln was a common law child than to have the old rumor persist that he was illegitimate. The date eventually fixed by the Rev. Jesse Hite to bring all of Nancy Hanks' children within a period of alleged wedlock, naturally would have been arranged when Nancy Hanks and Calhoun separated, for political reasons.

Jennings C. Wise.

Calhoun

April 25, 1950

Mr. Jennings C. Wise
Cloverdale, Virginia

My dear Mr. Wise:

I think possibly the copies of Lincoln Lore attached to this letter will contain such information as will convey our opinion about the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, and the John C. Calhoun folklore.

I regret very much that most of the statements made in your brief review would be very seriously questioned by objective historians, and I think it would be very unwise for anyone to make the deductions which you suggest with reference to either Lincoln's grandmother or his own mother.

Very truly yours,

Director

LAW:EB
Enc.

Russell Hook
HARDINSBURG, KY. 40143

May 26 72

Dear Mr Muir:

Thanks for your nice letter of the 20th. It was .nice being with you-- and the Squire always has a nice party.

My Grandfather, Matthias Miller, born 1835 was County Judge Of Breckinridge County, and he said many times--The lawyers from Elizabethtown, had no doubt but that young Ben Hardin was Lincolns Daddy. If anyone would know, that would be the group that would know best.

In 1930, in relation to Lincoln Trail Road, my grandfather made affidavit that the Lincoln "party" camped a week or so at Hardinsburg-one of them was ill- and that his Uncle, John DeHaven gave them a calf. The people of Hardinsburg gave them food also. Said when they left Hardibsburg, Young Abe walked ahead of the oxen with long bbl. rifle on his shoulder

Hope tp see ypu again

Sincerely

Russell Hook

ack 7/17/72

R.D.#2, Box 1042
Mohnton, Pa. 19540
12 July 1972

The Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. McMurtry:

Thank you very much for the copy of Lincoln Lore No. 739 containing the review of Lamon's (or Black's) biography of Lincoln.

I neglected to mention in my previous letter that you may keep the Black and Judge Piatt memos. If you use them or quote from them, perhaps you would credit me with having brought them to light. Otherwise you may do with them as you wish.

Chauncey F. Black, as you probably are aware, was the son of Jeremiah S. Black, Buchanan's Attorney General and later, Secretary of State. Chauncey Black's son, Jeremiah Black, Jr., was married to my great-aunt, Mabel (Evans) Black. She is now living in California and will be coming east later this month to celebrate her 90th birthday with us. Through her indirectly, I recently acquired a dozen or so of the senior Jeremiah Black's letters including several relating to the investigation of the California land claims in 1860.

I will be happy to correspond with anyone who may be interested in the contents of the other Black letters.

Very truly yours,

Evans C. Goodling, Jr.

Evans C. Goodling, Jr.

Book speculates about Lincoln's parentage

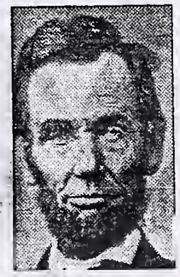
"The Lincoln No One Knows: The Mysterious Man Who Ran The Civil War" by Webb Garrison; Rutledge Hill; $16.95; 288 pages

By **ALAN ABRAMS**
Toledo Blade

Now that JFK and LBJ have been exposed for public scrutiny, the time has come to take a revisionist look at Abraham Lincoln. And historian Webb Garrison is just the right person to do it.

In this, Garrison's 43rd book since 1941, the former assistant dean of Emory University advances a theory that Lincoln's almost fanatical support of the Union at all costs may have been influenced by deep-rooted personal scars: the Civil War played out as a Southern Gothic family tragedy worthy of a Flannery O'Connor novel.

Before you scoff, consider this: Lincoln knew that his grandmother Lucy Hanks was illegitimate and had never been married. Nor was Lincoln able to find proof that his parents had married.



Lincoln

His mother, Nancy Hanks, had been born out of wedlock, and he may well have heard tales about her alleged infidelity to Thomas Lincoln, the man history said was his father, but whom many believe was impotent.

Overwhelmed by the solemnity of the bond of marriage, Lincoln may have equated it with union of the states and through transference, made preservation of the national union his all-consuming goal.

To establish that concept, Garrison dives into the murky waters surrounding Lincoln's parentage. He comes up for air clutching not one but three potential candidates for Lincoln's paternity, whom he has identified through folk tales that nearly two centuries after Lincoln's birth continue to circulate in Kentucky and the Carolinas.

At least two of the possibilities for Lincoln's paternity are highly intriguing: Samuel Davis of Kentucky, the father of Jefferson Davis, who sought the Democratic presidential nomination in 1860 and the next year became the first president of the Confederate States of America; and John C. Calhoun of South Carolina, whose nullification doctrine paved the way for secession of the southern states. The third man is Abraham Enloe, a prosperous North Carolina teacher and merchant.

Although professional Lincoln scholars have tried to downplay such speculation, it doesn't take into account Lincoln's own documented belief that he was the grandson of an unknown but prominent well-bred Virginia farmer or planter from whom he had inherited his unusual gifts and talents that so distinguished him from other members of the Hanks family.

Abraham and Thomas Lincoln were estranged. Thomas did not attend Abraham's wedding, and when informed that Thomas was on his death bed, Abraham found something better to do than pay a final visit. Nor did he go to the funeral.

But Lincoln's lineage takes second position behind the inconsistencies in Lincoln's carefully nurtured populist image. Lincoln was far from the hayseed country bumpkin lawyer whose image is still perpetuated today. While he practiced law, he earned the then-princely sum of $5,000 a year, which was more than the governor of Illinois was paid.

You may not agree with what author Garrison says, but this book will certainly make you think.

Judge — Norfolk Virginia

The judge told me that when his daughter was a young girl she had a young lady visiting her and he heard the young lady say that Abraham Lincoln had colored blood in him. He said it made him mad to hear such a claim and he went in to the room and told the young lady that there was not a word of truth in what she was saying.

L. A. Warren

Paternity

Elmwood Cemetery Charlotte N.C.

Gratt Springs is said to have been a half brother of Abraham Lincoln

"Died May 25 1902"
aged 78 years.

He must have been born in 1824.

He could not have been a half brother of Abraham Lincoln by either paternal or maternal line as alleged.

Louis A. Warren Feb 1942

Potential aspirants

Samuel Smith.

Alice Winkler

John C. Calhoun

Judge C S Wyche

Mulatto

Judge. (Norfolk Va.)

Thomas Marshall

Albert J. Beveridge

Gratt Springs

Martin.

W Lee Person

Samuel Davis

Clarence Edward
Macartney

Ben Hardin

Edwin Carlisle Litsey

John C Calhoun

C. E. Stewart

SAMUEL (JOE) DAVIS

J. B. Lehman

Watt Hardin

Watson Heyland

John C Calhoun

D. Z Knotts

Henry Clay

Mrs Morris P. Ferris